

U.S. senators 'hit targets'

WASHINGTON (R) — A self-described former addict in Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel, testifying in Congress under heavy guard, said Wednesday he believes the Colombian drug lords have hit men in the United States and might even try to kill the president or members of Congress. "Some of you may be victims of (assassination) attempts," witness Diego Velez Salazar replied when Senator Sam Nunn asked if he thought his former narcotics underworld bosses might try to kill Americans in retaliation for Colombian-American attempts to crush the drug trade. "Maybe the president of the United States would be a victim of the actions of drug traffickers," Velez said. Testifying from behind a screen at hearings of a Senate investigative committee, Velez, who is in the U.S. without protection, conceded he was speculating on the assassination issue but asserted that the Colombian drug barons have attacked in the United States right now.

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Al Hussein receives rousing welcome in Maan

King: Jordan remains steadfast in support for Palestinians

MAAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday Jordan would continue its support for the Palestinians under occupation until they regain their rights and freedom in their own homeland.

"We will translate into deeds the principles in which we believe so that we can fulfil the aspirations, no matter how long the way is and regardless of the difficulties and the challenges coming our way," King Hussein said in a speech at a public rally held at the southern city.

The city's public squares were bedecked with flags, portraits of King Hussein and other decorative signs and the streets were thronged by cheering crowds welcoming the King.

The King told the crowds Maan served as the first stage and a starting point in modern Arab history, raising the standards of the Great Arab Revolt, which broke out to defend the Arab Nation and to save the Arabs

from conspiracies.

"We will follow in the footsteps of the principles and of the Great Arab Revolt, offering sacrifice and committed to the defence of the Arab Order," King Hussein said.

King Hussein said he was determined to pursue all endeavours to make Jordan a source of power for the Arab World.

"Jordan, which has been guarding the longest confrontation lines in the face of external challenges and dangers, will remain steadfast and will pursue all efforts to bolster Arab unity regardless of hardships," the King said.

Jordan, he added, will face the challenges and will never com-

promise or bargain over any Arab rights and Arab freedom.

The King told the rally that his visit marked the start of a series of meetings with the people of Maan to discuss their problems and to find proper solutions.

Ministers, local officials and notable Maan personalities accompanied the King at the rally, which was attended by thousands of residents.

A number of notables delivered speeches at the outset of the rally paying tribute to King Hussein's endeavours at domestic, pan-Arab and international levels to serve the Arab Nation.

The speakers also paid tribute to the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt who led the march towards freedom and unity for the Arab World.

The King was accompanied on the visit to Maan by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh and a number of senior officials.



His Majesty King Hussein shakes hands with Maan residents during a visit he paid to the southern city Wednesday (Petra photo)

American diplomat's car set ablaze in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The car of a U.S. diplomat was set ablaze in Arab Jerusalem Wednesday in a rare anti-American attack in the 21-month-old Palestinian uprising.

The U.S. consulate in west Jerusalem called the attack on the car of David Wynn, its deputy principal officer, an act of vandalism. Police said they suspected Palestinian nationalists.

Attacks on U.S. targets have been uncommon in uprising.

In February 1988, fire bombs were thrown at an Arab Jerusalem U.S. consular building. That attack caused no damage or injuries.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Nasr hospital said it received the body of a Palestinian suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities. Residents of Khan Younis identified him as Jibara Mohammad Abu Taha, 33. He was stabbed repeatedly.

Palestinians in the Gaza town of Rafah said 29-year-old Suleiman Jarbua, another alleged informant, was stabbed and severely injured in a separate incident.

Israeli forces arrested a Rafah Arab who worked in an army-run

workshop, accusing him of membership in a popular committee of the uprising.

A military spokesman said it was unusual for Palestinians employed in army workshops, normally mechanical repair shops, to be detained for taking part in the revolt.

Israeli army Chief of Staff Dan Shomron has ordered Israeli soldiers not to humiliate or mistreat Arab protesters or use excessive force against them, a military spokesman said Tuesday.

Several of the 641 Palestinians killed during the uprising were beaten to death by Israeli soldiers. Palestinians regularly complain of maltreatment and beatings by troops during raids on their villages or after they are arrested.

Early in the revolt, soldiers tried to bury four Arabs alive in a West Bank village.

In a letter sent to all soldiers serving in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Lieutenant-General Shomron wrote:

"I want to clarify and emphasize that force should be used to achieve a mission according to the law and the orders of the

army and there must be no deviation."

Under no circumstances should force be used as a means of punishment, he wrote.

Shomron ordered soldiers to open fire according to army regulations, recently loosened by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to allow soldiers to shoot at masked suspects who resist arrest.

Troops should also behave in a "respectable manner" towards international bodies operating in the occupied territories like the International Red Cross and enable them to carry out their tasks without disturbances, Shomron said.

During the uprising, international bodies, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), have complained of harassment by Israeli troops.

Shomron also ordered soldiers not to stop ambulances or delay medical treatment of the wounded. Palestinians have said that several Arabs died on their way to hospital when ambulances were delayed by the army.



An Israeli policeman checks the soles of a Palestinian's shoes after an arson attempt in occupied Jerusalem

Israel gags debate on Egyptian plan after U.S. welcomes it

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli leaders Wednesday discussed ideas put up by Egypt on ways to break an impasse over Middle East peace efforts, but then clamped an unusual gag on further debate.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met his top three ministers — Vice Premier Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin — to discuss 10 proposals made by Egypt in response to an Israeli initiative for the occupied territories.

After the meeting, aides were unusually tight-lipped.

"It was an internal discussion, and it doesn't mean we are ready to talk about details of the 'peace' plan," Yossi Abimeir, Shamir's spokesman, told Reuters.

The same clampdown was evident when the 12-member inner cabinet met afterwards. Shamir barred discussion on the proposals by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Israel Radio reported.

Egypt has put forward ideas to free the deadlock over an Israeli plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories.

The Cairo proposals include ensuring free elections, allowing Arab Jerusalem Palestinians to participate and accepting the principle of exchanging occupied land for peace.

A veteran Israeli statesman, former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, just back from Cairo, said Egypt was "quite likely" to invite Israeli and Palestinian delegations for talks on details of the Israeli initiative.

Israel in May proposed Arab elect representatives to negotiate interim self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Eban told Reuters that Egyptian ministers said Cairo planned to nominate a delegation to discuss elections. The delegates would comprise Palestinians who would be acceptable to Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"(Ministers) spoke of a picture of a Palestinian delegation meeting Israelis. They would be mostly from the territories and one or two would be professors who would not be objectionable," Eban told Reuters.

U.S. welcome

The Egyptian plan received a warm welcome Tuesday from the U.S. government.

Secretary of State James Baker is in the process of sounding out Middle East leaders about Mubarak's ideas. Baker met last week with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Tuesday with His Royal Highness Crown

Prince Hassan

"We continue to encourage all parties to find ways to launch an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue to discuss the Israeli election initiative," Margaret Tutwiler, the State Department spokeswoman, said afterwards. "To the extent these 10 points can be helpful, in that regard we welcome Egypt's efforts."

In Tunis, a senior PLO official said the United States had dropped its opposition to Palestinian exiles taking part in negotiations. The official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters that Mubarak briefed Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, of the change in U.S. policy at a meeting in Tunis last Friday.

In the latest round of its dialogue with the PLO in Tunis on Aug. 14, the United States rejected a PLO proposal that non-PLO Palestinians from both outside and inside the West Bank and Gaza Strip discuss the elections proposal with Israel.

Israel also opposed the idea because the Zionist state does not recognise Palestinians in exile as part of the problem.

The PLO official said the organisation had no confirmation of the change from the United States and that differences over agenda and forum could prevent a meeting taking place.

Hungary says open-border policy will continue

BERLIN (Agencies) — Hungary said Wednesday that its borders would remain open for refugees seeking passage to the West, and an East German newspaper said it was time to ask why skilled citizens were fleeing the Communist country.

In Austria, the Interior Ministry said 12,158 East Germans had passed through that country en route to West Germany in the two days that refugees have been taking advantage of Hungary's newly opened border.

"The Hungarian government's policy of opening the country's borders will continue," Ferenc Somogyi, the number two official in the Foreign Ministry, said in Budapest.

As long as a third country is willing to accept refugees from other East bloc countries, Hungary will allow them to leave, he said.

"There are agreements with other Warsaw Pact countries similar to the one Hungary just

suspended with East Germany, and these agreements are no longer in line with Hungary's newly assumed international responsibilities, such as our having signed the Goevea convention," Somogyi said.

"We are working to bring these various agreements into harmony with (our) new foreign policy," he added.

Somogyi said the border policy was consistent with Hungary's status as a signatory of the recent U.N. convention on refugees. Hungary is the only East bloc country to sign that convention.

Meanwhile the tide of refugees entering West Germany receded to a trickle and some reception camps were half-empty as recent arrivals left for new homes and jobs.

Border police in Passau, the main reception centre in West Germany, said most of the 9,500 registered there had already moved on and the flow of newcomers had slackened off. But

Bavarian officials said they still expected the final total to reach 15,000.

"The situation has quietened down considerably," Interior Ministry spokesman Detlef Flotho told reporters. "Individual travellers are arriving steadily but no longer in the mass proportions of Monday and early Tuesday."

In Prague, Western diplomatic sources said most of the 400 East Germans occupying West Germany's embassy had abandoned their bid to reach the West and left the mission, although 25 others had taken refuge by climbing a garden wall.

East German lawyer Wolfgang Vogel assured them that if they returned to East Germany, they would receive legal aid to leave the Communist country legally and could return to their jobs, the sources said. There were still between 150 and 180 people in the embassy.

Hardline Czechoslovakia has refused to allow East Germans to

leave its territory via the West German embassy, in contrast to the huge exodus permitted by Hungary.

West German officials said refugees were being distributed throughout the 11 federal states.

Most wanted to settle in the states with the biggest quotas, Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia, and there were no known cases of anyone being sent anywhere against his will.

Josef Heide, border police chief in Passau, said about a fifth of the refugees wanted to move to West Berlin but would have to have

their cars behind because the enclave city is ringed by East German territory.

The West German government warned East Germans who had left their homeland without permission not to return there on visits as they could face prosecution.

East Germans arriving in Passau have been quickly snapped up — some on their first day — by West German employers short of staff. Workers skilled in metal-working, electrical installation and other trades are particularly sought after.

Israel must agree to relinquish occupied lands — Crown Prince

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has said that Israel must agree to relinquish the West Bank and Gaza Strip in exchange for peace, and that the Zionist state was trying to drive a wedge between Palestinians and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In a major policy speech here Tuesday night, Prince Hassan said Jordan had no intention to represent the Palestinians. At a news conference earlier, he dismissed as a "pipe dream" the idea among some Israeli politicians that Jordan would agree to a deal to resume its formal links — of the West Bank.

Speaking after meetings with U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, the Crown Prince said Israel and the United States should accept the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians. And, he said, the United States should recognise that the PLO is entitled to a pivotal role in any peace negotiations.

Denouncing a plan by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for elections among Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza, the Crown Prince said: "The purpose is to drive a wedge between them and their recognised leadership."

Prince Hassan said an overall agreement could only be negotiated at an international peace conference that included the PLO and the Soviet Union.

"Jordan will not represent the Palestinian people at the conference," he said. "Nor will it negotiate the settlement of the Palestinian problem on behalf of

the PLO."

He said Jordan was willing to attend such a peace conference as part of a joint delegation with the PLO.

The Crown Prince, referring to the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights and Arab Jerusalem, said Jordan did not accept the acquisition of territory by war.

"Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories has to be the basis for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the establishment of a just and lasting peace," he said.

Earlier Tuesday, a plan by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for Palestinian elections received cautious praise from the U.S. State Department.

Mubarak's plan is coupled with a demand that Israel accept the idea it should trade land for peace. Negotiations for an overall settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute would be held three to five years after limited Palestinian self-rule began.

Shamir has steered clear of any plan that seems to commit Israel to relinquishing West Bank and Gaza.

Mubarak advanced the proposals as refinements to Shamir's plan for Palestinian elections.

Baker is in the process of sounding out Mideast leaders about Mubarak's ideas. He met last week with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Tuesday with Crown Prince Hassan.

Mubarak is expected to visit Washington within a few weeks, followed by Shamir in November.

Other elements of Mubarak's proposal include permitting

Palestinians who live in Arab Jerusalem to participate in the elections and supervision of the voting by international observers.

Prince Hassan told reporters after he saw Baker that the Bush administration should permit PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to address the United Nations in New York.

"We think Arafat should be granted diplomatic recognition," Hassan said after a 45-minute meeting with Baker.

At a news conference later, Hassan called Mubarak's proposal worthwhile, but said a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute required an international peace conference.

"We see the Egyptian proposals as a mechanism for holding elections," he said.

Hassan met with Bush at the White House for about 15 minutes. He told telling reporters that they discussed generalities.

"I had the very moving impression of the president's personal concern towards these developments," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan said the talks dealt with "regional issues, particularly the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the suffering of the Palestinian people, and the situation in the Lebanon."

The Crown Prince said the discussions also dealt with the situation between Iraq and Iran.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasem, Planning Minister Ziad Fariz, and the Jordanian ambassador to the United States.

Arab mediation panel on Lebanon begins talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Syria has told an Arab League peace committee meeting in Jeddah that it will withdraw its troops from Lebanon only if Israel does the same, diplomats said Wednesday.

The foreign ministers of the committee members — Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia — met Wednesday to decide if they should resume peace efforts they suspended at the end of July, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

Diplomats and officials quoted by Reuters said they expected the ministers to go ahead with a new drive to end six months of fighting in Beirut between Syrian troops, their Lebanese allies, and the forces of army chief Michel Aoun.

More than 800 people have been killed in the shelling which started in March when Aoun, who commands 15,000 soldiers, declared a "war of liberation" to expel Syria's estimated 33,000 troops.

In Beirut, security sources reported three hours of artillery duels Wednesday and said one of Aoun's men was killed.

Diplomats said Syria told the committee it would pull out of Lebanon only if it received firm guarantees from the United States that Israel would withdraw from its self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Syria also wants constitutional and political reforms giving Muslims a bigger say in running Lebanon.

The rivalry led to a political crisis a year ago which left Lebanon with no president and two governments, one military, headed by Aoun, and one civilian, headed by Salim Al Hoss, vying for power.

The Arab League committee, set up in May, said at the end of July it was suspending its work because of insurmountable obstacles.

It decided to hold the Jeddah meeting after widespread appeals, sparked by intensified fighting and heavy casualties last month, that it resume its peace efforts.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd said in Jeddah earlier this week: "We are determined, with God's will, to find a final solution to a

tragedy which everyone agrees should come to an end."

"The committee has better chances of success this time because the warring factions are now convinced that there can be no military solution," an Arab diplomat in Riyadh said.

The Lebanese, however, are less optimistic about prospects for peace, having seen dozens of mediation efforts disappear in a blaze of cannon and rocket fire.

Informed sources in Jeddah said the committee was considering a four-stage peace plan comprising:

— A comprehensive ceasefire on all Lebanese territory.

— Lifting all land and naval blockades and opening Beirut airport.

— Inviting the members of parliament to a meeting outside Lebanon to agree to a "charter of political reform."

— A parliament meeting in Beirut "within a few weeks" for election of the president.

A high-level Arab body would be formed to monitor the ceasefire.

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Al Hussein appoints new PSD chief

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday appointed Major General Fadel Al Fahed as director general of the Public Security Department (PSD), succeeding Lt. Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali who resigned Tuesday to retire.

A Royal Decree issued here said that Maj. Gen. Fahed will assume his duty as PSD chief as of Sept. 21, 1989 when Majali's retirement takes effect.

At the same time, King Hussein sent a letter to Majali expressing his deep appreciation for his efforts during his mandate as PSD chief which began on July 1, 1985.

"Your choice to take up the duty of PSD chief was based on your knowledge, your high level efficiency and your ability to introduce organization and your readiness to offer sacrifice and dedication," the King said in his message to Majali.

He said "In 1985 the PSD was in great need of someone who could revitalize the force through new, modern training programmes and modernization of techniques, and was in need of highly qualified personnel devoted to the cause of protecting the nation and providing security for its citizens and ready to help combat crime of any kind."



Maj. Gen. Fadel Al Fahed and his colleagues at the PSD "had succeeded in carrying out programmes in training and in acquiring modern equipment which together helped the police force to attain a great level of readiness that won our confidence and our pride."

The King said he was confident that the PSD will now pursue the course of development and offer the best services to the Jordanian people.

Before becoming PSD chief, Majali had served as Jordanian ambassador to the United States and as a senior army officer. His successor to the post is a senior army officer and commander of the 15th Royal Armoured Division.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

MALHAS OPENS MEDICAL MEETING: Health Minister Zuhair Malhas Wednesday opened the 12th meeting of the Arab Council for internal medicine which is organized by the Arab Council for Medical Specialisations and called in a speech for further efforts to raise funds necessary for the council's operations. The minister also paid tribute to Palestinian doctors and specialists who are providing urgent medical help to the victims of Israeli repression in the occupied Arab territories. Malhas lauded recommendations taken by the Council of Arab Medical Specialisations in Libya which gave recognition to the hospitals of the occupied Arab territories. (Petra)

NABULSI TO ATTEND TUNIS MEETING: Central Bank of Jordan Governor Dr. Muhammad Sa'ad Nabulsi will represent Jordan to the meeting of the Arab central bank governors due to open in Tunis Friday. The two-day meeting will discuss organization of Arab economic ties with the European community and review the final draft of the unified Arab economic report for 1989 due to be presented to the upcoming meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington. (Petra)

KEILANI RECEIVES IRAQI ENVOY: Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Keilani Wednesday discussed with the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan means to bolster and develop bilateral relations in the field of water and irrigation. (Petra)

POLICE GRADUATION: The Royal Police Academy Wednesday turned out four groups of police officers who completed training courses in different types of police work. Academy dean Mohammad Basoul delivered a speech at the graduation ceremony and later distributed diplomas to the graduates. (Petra)

ARAB VETS TO MEET IN BAGHDAD: The Jordanian Veterinarians Association announced Wednesday that it will take part in a seminar organized by the Arab Veterinarian Federation in Baghdad Friday. Association President Ahmad Ajlouni said that he will represent the association at the meeting which will review a number of working papers from Arab states. (Petra)

HOUSING BANK MEETING: The Housing Bank is holding a meeting Thursday for its regional management in charge of branches in southern Jordan. The two-day meeting is being held at the Ma'in Spa near Madaba. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artists Khalid Ghawamneh and Abdullah Kamaich, and the Syrian artist Wafiq Al Masri at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

FILM

★ A feature film entitled "The Grapes of Wrath" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

PETRA CULTURAL FESTIVAL

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Handicrafts exhibition, which includes sculptures, embroidery, sand ornaments and woodwork, at the Tourism Square.
- ★ The National Heritage Exhibition, which includes knickknacks, textiles and simple agricultural tools used locally, at the Tourism Square.
- ★ The Archaeological Treasures of the Sahara Exhibition inside the old city of Petra.
- ★ A photo exhibition on Petra inside the old city of Petra.
- ★ The Armed Forces Exhibition, including photos and posters depicting the armed forces development.
- ★ A comprehensive art exhibition, held by the University of Jordan, includes paintings, photos and sculptures at the Visitors Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of oriental artifacts and folkloric costumes at the Tourism Square.

SPORTS

★ Petra cross-country race — 3:30 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Makoto Watanabe, organized by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), on a programme entitled "traditional Japan, modern Japan and tomorrow" at the YWCA — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ A lecture on cultural movement in Jordan by Dr. Khalid Al Kuraki — 4:30 p.m.

FOLKLORE

- ★ Folkloric shows by Al Madrasa Young Women's Centre Troupe, Karak Young Women's Troupe, Jordanian Artist Mohammad Al Haili and Yarmouk University Orchestra at Al Hareth Theatre — 8:30 p.m.



KING IN MAAN: His Majesty King Hussein waves to cheering crowds in the southern city of Maan during a visit he paid to the city Wednesday (Petra photo).



KING HONOURS ENVOYS: His Majesty King Hussein has conferred the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order on Algerian Ambassador Mohammed Bergham and Belgian Ambassador Guido Vansina upon the end of their tour of duty in the Kingdom. Foreign Ministry Secretary General Mutaseem Bilbisi presented the medals to Bergham and Vansina (photo above) at an official lunch he hosted at Amman Plaza Hotel. Bilbisi also presented Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Harald Borner with a token gift. Borner is ending his tour of duty here by the end of this month.

Jordan prepares to celebrate Arab Child Day on Oct. 2

AMMAN (J.T.) — A standing committee charged with preparations for Arab Child Day celebrations decided at a meeting Wednesday to start the celebrations on Oct. 2.

The meeting, which was chaired by Mrs. Inam Al Mufri, director general of the Noor Al Hameed Foundation which is organizing the coming event, was also dedicated to discussing coordination of private and public organizations' efforts for the success of the celebrations.

Addressing the committee members, Mufri said that the celebrations should be used as a means to encourage the public to give proper care to child development issues.

The committee, which groups representatives of various concerned organizations as well as

government departments, will carry out wide ranging activities on Oct. 2 to lead the way towards providing better care and services to Jordanian children, Mufri noted.

The activities, to be held under the slogan, "children's culture and education is a national and pan-Arab duty to build the Arab citizen," includes children's art exhibitions, children's entertainment programmes, educational field trips, seminars and lectures, as well as free medical examination of children.

The celebrations, which will last for a full nine days, include book exhibitions, which will take place at public and private schools, artwork displays by children up to 15 years of age, poetry recitals, children's plays, work-

shops for kindergarten and elementary school teachers and field trips for children.

The branches of the Haya Art Centre will hold an art and folklore festival with the participation of children from social development institutions.

Children's trips to museums, cultural centres and places of interest have already been arranged, and programmes have been worked out to encourage children to take part in cleanliness campaigns.

The wide-ranging activities, according to the organizers, extended from Irbid in the north to Aqaba in the south.

Mufri stressed the importance of family participation in the celebrations since families are essentially involved in the bringing up of children.

Ministry of Justice completes work on new arbitration law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Justice Ministry announced Wednesday it has completed work on a new arbitration law and sent it to the cabinet to be endorsed before it can be put into force.

The draft law was prepared by the ministry upon directives from Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker so that Jordan will have a new set of regulations to cope with the developments in trade, industry and the contracting business, to replace the existing law which came into force 37 years ago, according to a Justice Ministry statement.

The statement said that the ministry enlisted the assistance of the Jordanian Engineers and Contractors Associations, the

Amman Chambers of Industry and Trade and Jordanian lawyers as well as university professors and other people and organizations with wide-ranging experience in arbitration procedures at the regional and international levels, in order to help enact the new law.

The new law on arbitration is bound to complement the work of courts in many cases and is bound to cut down on lengthy procedures in the course of court proceedings, the statement added.

From now on arbitration committee comprising experts in trade, industry and the contracting business will be held to dis-

cuss cases and issue their decisions will be endorsed by Jordanian courts, the statement pointed out.

The new law aims to reduce the number of cases referred to the courts, especially as they deal with matters of finance and trade, requiring high level expertise and specialization which can only be provided through the arbitration committee, the statement added.

In addition, the statement said, the Ministry of Justice has finalized a draft law on amendment on the axial weights on roads which will be referred to the cabinet for approval.

It said that Jordanian courts will, from now on, look into cases involving axial weight issues.

AMO to establish federation of agricultural exporters to Europe

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) is currently preparing for the establishment of a Jordanian federation of agricultural exporters to European countries, and has already issued a handbook to help exporters provide information about export prospects to Europe, according to the director of AMO's Quality Control Department Ibrahim Ureikat.

Ureikat said in the past six months there was a upsurge in the amounts of exported vegetables and fruit to European markets, thanks to the concerted efforts of the AMO staff and the Jordanian exporters.

According to Ureikat, AMO has prepared an integrated plan to promote methods for increasing exports. This plan entails imposing control on exporters who, he said, should apply standard specifications acceptable to the European markets.

The plan, which has been worked out in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), envisages dispatching officials and exporters on a tour

of European markets to familiarise themselves with their needs of vegetables and fruits, Ureikat noted.

"At present, Jordan's efforts to vastly increase its crop exports to Europe are being hampered by the lack of sufficient proper transport facilities and the high cost of air freight," Ureikat noted.

He said that AMO has enlisted the help of a foreign specialist in crop export operations to study Jordan's land, maritime and air transport potentials and possible export operations.

In fact, Jordan turned to European and Gulf markets in 1985 when traditional markets for its products in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq were closed for Jordanian exporters, according to AMO Director General Faid Al Azab.

Even the traditional Gulf markets which used to import Jordanian products are now shrinking because Gulf countries started producing vegetables and fruit, and also because of strong competition from Turkey and Lebanon in those markets, Azab pointed out.

But despite the setbacks, he said, Jordan's agricultural exports in the past three years accounted for 35 per cent of the total exported national products, Azab noted.

The past decade witnessed a vast increase in the volume of national agricultural production, causing surpluses to surface and create bottlenecks in marketing.

He said that while Jordan had previously relied on Arab markets to sell its products, attention is now being shifted towards Europe. AMO, he said, has been paving the way for this development in cooperation with USAID by dispatching teams of exporters to European markets.

The teams visited France, the Netherlands and West Germany in May 1988 and had a close-hand study of their needs of products, Azab said.

Any development in ways and methods of exporting products and new markets abroad Azab concluded, are bound to help enhance the national economy and ensure more revenues of hard currency needed for development.

Seminar reviews study on joint Jordanian-Syrian pesticide plant

DAMASCUS (J.T.) — A seminar has opened here to review a feasibility study on a joint Jordanian-Syrian pesticide plant to be set up in Syria to meet the needs of the two countries and export the surplus to the Arab World.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Innab and his Syrian counterpart Antoine Jabran are among a group of Syrian and Jordanian ministers and officials taking part in the seminar along with a representative of the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) which is co-sponsoring the project.

The seminar, according to Syrian officials, will pave the way also for an expanded meeting later on to decide on marketing and organisational matters.

The pesticide project is being carried out by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Industry Company which is also carrying out a number of joint industrial schemes.

Innab told the opening session that the joint industry company has already established two plans, one for processing white cement in Jordan and the other for producing wall to wall carpeting in Sweida, Syria.

"The two projects are progressing satisfactorily despite the difficulties, and their products are

meeting the needs of Syrian and Jordanian markets," the minister noted.

Referring to the pesticide project, Innab said that its products have a very good chance to be marketed in the Arab World which annually consumes some \$332 million worth of pesticides.

Innab pledged full Jordanian support for the project and expressed hope that organisations invited to the seminar would extend support and assistance.

The Syrian ministers of economy and foreign trade and industry also addressed the seminar's opening session paying tribute to the on-going process of integration between Jordan and Syria in economic affairs.

They said that the pesticide plant will have an overall production capacity of 4,296 tonnes annually to be mostly marketed in Jordan and Syria.

The pesticide company, they said, will be set up in implementation of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee Resolutions taken in July 1988.

Last October, a general financiers meeting was held in Amman to raise funds for the project and to enlist support from various investment and financial orga-

nisations of the scheme.

According to Ahmad Munir Hamash, the joint company board chairman, nearly 60 per cent of the plant's total production will be marketed in Jordan and Syria and the rest will find its way to neighbouring Arab states.

Hamash expected the projected plant to produce some 4,000 tonnes of pesticides annually.

He said that pesticides can be of use mainly in agriculture but will also be used for eliminating insects and protecting public health.

Innab, who is in Damascus to take part in the AOID meetings, earlier co-chaired a joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee meeting with Dr. Mohammad Innabi, the Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, to review scopes of cooperation between the two countries, covered by the minutes of the higher committee which convened in Damascus last July.

Innab said later that a review was made of bilateral cooperation in industry, agriculture, transport, electricity and oil, as well as economic and trade and financial matters and banking arrangements to settle even-handed trade deals.

Jordan, N. Yemen sign programme to implement cultural agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and North Yemen Wednesday signed an executive programme for the implementation of a cultural and educational agreement from 1989 to 1991.

energy and social affairs.

The programme provides for exchanges of scholarships, direct contacts between universities in Jordan and North Yemen, training Yemeni personnel at Jordanian universities, exchange of visits by university teachers and professors, joint seminars, exchanges of documents manuscripts and other cultural material and school textbooks.

The programme also provides for Jordanian teachers to be employed in Yemeni schools on a secondment basis, cooperation in

conducting restoration of archaeological sites, exchanges of historic books and other materials, organising exhibitions and exchange of visits by youth and sports delegations.

Under the programme's provisions, the two sides pledge to cooperate in matters related to social affairs, care for the juveniles, rehabilitation of the handicapped, providing health and primary health care and cooperation in energy, geology and other related fields.

RSS, W. German institute sign cooperation agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Economic Research Centre and the West German Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) research institute Wednesday signed a cooperation agreement for a research study entitled: "Socio-economic development, management and administration of rural areas in Jordan."

According to the agreement, the RSS Economic Research Centre will conduct a field study on rural development and admin-

istration in Jordan. It includes a study of infrastructure projects as well as social and economic services in Jordan's rural areas and the current administrative methods.

Furthermore, the study discusses productive projects likely to be carried out and the most ideal administrative organisation that can be adopted in rural areas and development centres.

This study is designed to prepare practical recommendations to establish various projects of

social and economic dimensions and to propose executive measures that ensure success for such projects.

The study will be concluded in a period of time not exceeding eight months, during which all information and studies on this subject will be collected.

After completion of the research project, a workshop will be organised, by the RSS and sponsored by FES, to conduct discussions with experts and to disseminate the findings

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In search for peace

MANY ATTEMPTS were made to by-pass the tripartite Arab committee entrusted to resolve the deteriorating Lebanese crisis and they were all in vain. Now all parties inside and outside Lebanon are rediscovering that the only viable hope is to give the Arab efforts a real chance to succeed. Much valuable time was wasted and untold killings, sufferings and destruction were also wickedly and criminally invested in the search for other ways to put an end to the conflict bleeding Lebanon. Fortunately, all sides have returned to their senses and now appear prepared to reactivate the Arab efforts.

But for the Arab efforts to triumph, it must solicit total Arab support on the basis of its initial findings. There is no more excuse to hide the facts and factors or even the circumstances that led the first Arab attempts into a dead end street. The Arab capitals and the Arab peoples everywhere cannot be expected to pronounce themselves in no uncertain terms on the peace process in Lebanon without being told clearly about what went wrong in the first place with the dedicated efforts of the Higher Arab Committee established by the most recent Arab summit at Casablanca. Time is certainly ripe and propitious for direct and free exchange of information on the subject of Lebanon. The cards, all the cards, must now or never be put on the table for all sides, including the principle players to see.

The Arab World was promised the submission of an interim progress report from the Arab Committee on its activities. Such a report has yet to surface. It is just possible that the revelation of this report can put the future Arab efforts on a more secure and stable course. Any other way would only put the Arab effort, on which the entire international community now depends, into yet another vicious circle with no end in sight. Lebanon and the Lebanese deserve openness in the treatment of their decade-and-a-half tragedy and the Arab World must be prepared to offer it to them. This is the least that humanity can do for them.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday discussed the resumption of the Arab League tripartite committee's mission in Lebanon and said the fact that the meeting of the committee was taking place in Jeddah was a good omen for Lebanon. Saudi Arabia, said the paper, is placing its weight behind the committee, facilitating its work and helping it to achieve success in its endeavour to end the conflict in Lebanon. The committee which last July announced its failure to achieve a breakthrough, is now being assisted and backed in its efforts by Saudi Arabia and the Arab League member countries at large, and therefore, the only reminding issues here is the cooperation of the factions in Lebanon so that success can be achieved. Should the committee fail again, the door will be wide open for further tragedies and could threaten the security of the Arab Nation as a whole, the paper noted. The paper said that Arab masses are looking forward to a fruitful effort by the Arab League committee, now that it is working under new circumstances following the removal of all obstacles that stood in the way of its efforts in its previous attempts. The paper expressed hope that all parties involved in the Lebanese issue will now extend a helping hand to the committee to ensure its success.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday criticised the Arab League for holding its sessions in secret without relying the outcome of these meetings to the Arab masses who are involved in a battle of destiny with the Israeli enemy. Mahmoud Al Rihawi says that whatever goes on inside the Arab League council should be published so that the Arab citizens can keep abreast with the discussions. The writer notes that the Arab League council has failed so far to follow up on a resolution taken by the Casablanca Arab summit on the formation of a higher committee to back the intifada at the international forums. There is no more talk about that committee or its work, nor is there any talk about the Arab stand with regard to Israel's idea of holding elections in the occupied territories, says the writer. He says that the council meeting is no less important than that of the Arab summits. We realise that the council plans to discuss the occupied territories, Lebanon, the Gulf and other issues, but there is no justification whatsoever for failing to follow up the implementation of Arab summit resolutions, says the writer. It is regrettable, he adds, that no serious steps have been taken so far to provide meaningful support for the Palestinian uprising which is designed to end occupation of Arab land.

Al Dustour daily discussed King Hussein's visit to the governorate of Maan Wednesday. It said that the city of Maan served as the first station where the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt stopped to gather their forces and pursue the march north. The King is making the visit as part of his round-the-country tours, which started some time ago, for the sake of meeting the local inhabitants and being close to them and to their lives, the paper noted. It said that the King has maintained an open channel of communication with his people and moving in the footsteps of his grandfather who served as one of the revolt's great leaders earlier this century. The city of Maan is Wednesday opening its arms to welcome the grandson of the founder of the Kingdom and a leader who is implementing the principles and the goals of the great revolt.

Israel and the occupied territories: Possible extrajudicial execution

The following is an Amnesty International report

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has called on the Israeli government to order a swift and impartial investigation into the killing of a 17-year-old Palestinian who it fears may have been the victim of an extrajudicial execution by the security forces.

In a telex sent to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Aug. 1, Amnesty International expressed concern that Yasser Mohammad Abu Ghawsh appeared to have been shot and killed on July 10 when it might have been possible to arrest him without using lethal force and even though he did not appear to have been suspected of any life-endangering offence.

Amnesty International told Shamir that its information was that after the shooting the youth was not given medical attention by security forces, that a doctor was prevented from treating him on the spot and that he was not taken for emergency treatment to nearby medical facilities.

According to information received by Amnesty International, Yasser Abu Ghawsh was shot dead by Israeli security forces as he walked with friends along a crowded main road towards the central square of Ramallah, on the West Bank, late in the morning of July 10. The following sequence of events is alleged to have occurred:

A Volkswagen vehicle stopped near him and three men in civilian clothes got out. One of two others remaining in the vehicle put a blue light on its roof, identifying it as a security forces vehicle. Yasser Abu Ghawsh and

his friends started to run in the direction of the central square, pursued by the three men, who drew pistols and fired in the air.

It is not clear whether they ordered Yasser Abu Ghawsh to stop either before or after opening fire, or whether he saw the blue light placed on top of the vehicle. Witnesses said they did not hear any verbal warning.

Yasser Abu Ghawsh and his friends turned into a side street pursued by the three men. One of the pursuers stopped as soon as he had turned the corner into this street, took aim with his pistol and fired several shots in rapid succession at Yasser. Abu Ghawsh, who was running in the middle of the street.

The youth was hit in the head and the back by three or more bullets. An eye-witness says the shots were fired at a range of under 10 metres — a distance not exceeding the length of two cars parked alongside the road. Yasser Abu Ghawsh fell to the ground, approximately 20 metres into the side street. His friends ran away unhurt.

After the shooting, Yasser Abu Ghawsh's body was surrounded by his three pursuers and by soldiers who arrived quickly in two jeeps. A Palestinian doctor, whose office is nearby, came to give assistance. He identified himself as a doctor to the soldiers but they refused to let him approach the youth's body, which they loaded on to the floor of their jeep. However, the doctor pushed forward and managed to feel Yasser Abu Ghawsh's neck — he believes the youth was still alive then.

The jeep was then driven off in the direction of the military headquarters in Ramallah, according to eye-witnesses, while the three men in civilian clothes returned to their vehicle and drove away undisturbed.

Yasser Abu Ghawsh is said to have been taken to the military headquarters and kept there for over three hours before an ambulance came for him. He is believed to have died before it arrived. An autopsy was reportedly carried out before the youth was buried at dawn on July 12.

Yasser Abu Ghawsh is said to have been wanted for arrest by the Israeli authorities and to have recently escaped two attacks by soldiers and plainclothes men on July 2 and 6, during which firearms appear to have been used against him. He had apparently been involved in a demonstration in Ramallah on the morning when he was killed. Press reports in the following days quoted Israeli military sources as saying that Yasser Abu Ghawsh was killed by security forces after ignoring an order to stop and that he had been involved in "harassing" Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israeli security forces.

Amnesty International has called for a speedy and impartial investigation into this incident, and for the findings and methods to be made public without delay. The organisation said that where there was suspicion of unlawful killing by members of the security forces, those involved should be suspended from active duty while the investigation proceeds. Anybody found responsible for such

killing should be brought to justice.

Since the beginning of the Palestinian intifada in December

1987, Amnesty International has repeatedly voiced concern about a pattern of killings of Palestinian civilians by Israeli forces in which

there appears to have been unjustifiable use of lethal force, condoned if not encouraged by the Israeli authorities.

Prisoners in need of immediate medical care

AMNESTY International is concerned at reports that three Palestinian prisoners, arrested in connection with their political activities or affiliation, are being denied medical care recommended by their doctors.

Yusuf Ahmad Ibrahim Hamlawi, male aged 30 years from Rimal in Gaza. He was reportedly arrested in January 1986 and sentenced to three years' imprisonment and two further years of suspended imprisonment on charges relating to membership of an illegal organisation. He is reportedly serving an additional sentence of two-and-a-half years' imprisonment which was suspended after a previous conviction on similar charges. He is currently in Ashkelon Prison.

Yusuf Hamlawi is reported to be suffering a disorder involving the cervical spine. His head is permanently twisted towards one shoulder and he is reported to complain of headaches, and pain in the left arm which is no longer functional. Medical treatment so far appears to be restricted to pain control. A CAT scan which has been recommended by doctors who have seen Yusuf Hamlawi has apparently been agreed to in principle but has not been carried out.

Hisham Al Majdalah, male, aged 24 years from Jabalya Re-

fugee Camp (Gaza) identity card No. 9170746 Prison no: 7590.

He was arrested on Aug. 23, 1988 and is awaiting trial on charges relating to political activities in connection with the intifada. He is said to be suffering from a thyroid disorder marked by a goiter. The course of this disorder is not known to Amnesty International but it has been reported that a specialist who saw him on June 1, 1989 while he was in Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon requested his immediate hospitalisation (though whether for diagnostic investigation or treatment is not known to AI). At the end of June 1989 he remained in the Ketzio Detention Centre in the Negev desert and was reported not to be receiving adequate medical attention.

Mohammad Badawi Salameh Jabran, male aged 42 from Jerusalem.

He was reportedly arrested at midnight on May 28, 1989 by Israeli soldiers and security officers and was said to have been beaten during interrogation. Mohammad Jabran is seriously disabled suffering from rheumatoid arthritis and osteoporosis. He had a total hip replacement in the late 1970s which now needs further surgery. He also suffers from a duodenal ulcer. Mohammad Jabran was first

arrested in 1972 and sentenced to six years, apparently in connection with his political activities, but was released in 1975 before expiry of the sentence for health reasons. In 1978 and 1979 he is reported to have been operated for bilateral hip replacement. In 1985 he fell suffering damage to the hips. He was reported to have suffered "marked painful limitation of hip movement." In 1987 he was examined at Makassed Hospital which reported that he "needs revision of the prosthesis and replacement of the femoral component as soon as possible," adding that he was fully incapacitated.

The operation was scheduled for September 1989. Lawyers for Mohammad Jabran asked a court hearing on June 27, 1989 to transfer him to a place where he could receive proper medical care, including to a prison hospital. The request was refused. Subsequently, he was transferred from the Mosabiyia detention centre where he was held.

Amnesty International is calling on the Israeli authorities to ensure that the above-named prisoners receive the medical treatment recommended by their doctors and that the family of Mohammad Jabran is immediately informed of his place of detention.

An orphaned soldier's dream

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

KABUL — In the orphanage where he grew up, a young soldier talks calmly about taking revenge for the murder of his entire family. Then, he passionately recites his poetry of peace and love, and hatred of the Afghan Mujahedeen guerrillas.

"I'm a poet, an artist and a tank commander," said 18-year-old Naimatullah Mawji. "Out of 18 people of my family, I am the only survivor. All my life has become a poem."

Like Mawji, many other Kabul orphans of the 11-year Afghan civil war have no memories of life without rockets, fighting and death. They can only dream of walking in the mountains, driving across the country and nights without curfew. Much of Afghanistan is controlled by the Mujahedeen, U.S.-backed Muslim warriors fighting the Soviet-aligned Kabul government.

The boyish-looking soldier, in his camouflage uniform, had returned to the Watan Nursery, the "Orphanage of the Homeland" in northwest Kabul, where the majority of the 1,100 children are the sons and daughters of those killed by guerrillas.

"I came here when I was 9 years old. This is my home. I come to see my teachers, my friends," Mawji said, bursting into poetry about the nursery "which

has become a nest of love for me."

The top graduate of the orphanage's secondary school, he published a book of poems and started studying journalism at Kabul University when he decided to join the army 18 months ago.

"I went into the army because I wanted revenge," he said.

Military service is obligatory for Afghan men in areas controlled by the Kabul government, but Mawji gave up a deferment for university studies to serve in the army sooner.

Chosen for President Najib's elite special guard, he first served as a bodyguard for the president's wife and is now a first lieutenant, commanding a tank unit in Kabul, he said.

Mawji said he hadn't killed any of those he blames for murdering his family in the village of Siagat in Parwan province north of Kabul, but he said he has killed three other guerrillas, two with rockets, one with a bullet.

Did it feel good? "Yes, because they had cut my young sister in pieces," he said.

In one poem, Mawji wrote: "I have great hate against an ignorant enemy, but I believe in common sense. I don't want war, I want peace. We all want peace. We are tired of war."

The orphanage promotes patriotism from an early age. A

group of 6-year-old sang a song for a visitor which started: "I will become a hero. Oh, guard my homeland."

Speaking in a strong voice, Mawji recited a poem he wrote about Afghanistan:

"Your high mountains are symbols of old pride.

"In the spring, you are extremely beautiful and your deserts are so vast,

"I want every corner of you green with flowers and blossoms,

"If I write 100,000 stories about you, still it will be too little,

"For the service of my people, I am an ongoing tide."

The orphanage also fosters strong links with the Soviet Union and East bloc countries. Every year, almost half the students go to the Soviet Union, Hungary or Czechoslovakia to study. Russian is the only foreign language taught at Watan and students are well versed in Marxist-Leninist philosophy.

Mawji, who studied in the Soviet Union, speaks Russian and just joined the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. He said he would like both superpowers out of Afghanistan.

"I have seen a lot of pain and agony, and I give myself the right to ask the United States not to give sophisticated weapons to the extremists because it will increase the bloodshed in Afghanistan," he said.

By Robert Block
Reuters

SALANG HIGHWAY, Afghanistan — The Salang highway has an awesome reputation as the most dangerous road in Afghanistan.

Twisting for 420 kilometres from the capital Kabul through the Hindu Kush mountains to the Soviet border, dusty in summer and icy in winter, it is the country's lifeline.

But its reputation stems not from its precipitous route, sharp curves, narrow lanes and huge potholes but because it is a prime target for Mujahedeen rebels.

Both the rebels and the government know that whoever controls the Salang determines whether Kabul has food and fuel for the bitter winter months or whether it starves and goes cold.

Guerrillas say they are planning to block the Salang to put pressure on the capital. But it is not clear whether they can muster the necessary coordination and force to do so.

To show it controls the road, the government recently took 40 journalists in helicopters and armoured personnel carriers up the southern part of the highway.

A 30-minute helicopter ride from Kabul to the Afghan military base at Jabul-ol-Saraj, 50 kilometres north, passed over streams of lorries and buses making their way to the capital.

Most traffic was using a small "new Salang highway." The government opened it last spring to divert traffic from the southernmost portion of the main highway most frequently attacked by

Kabul's lifeline

rebels. Drivers complain about huge dust clouds which choke their vehicles but despite the problems hundreds of cars and trucks manage to make it to Kabul almost daily.

At Jabul-ol-Saraj, a former Soviet military camp now a heavily fortified Afghan army base, the journalists boarded three armoured personnel carriers and headed up the road.

They passed green onion and corn fields which contrasted sharply with the grey and brown mountains of the Hindu Kush which rose in the distance.

Beyond the Kush is the Panjshir valley controlled by one of Afghanistan's most effective rebel commanders, Ahmad Shah Massoud.

The journalists passed lorries and buses loaded with melons, timber, sacks of flour and cement and other goods destined for Kabul. Large numbers of empty trucks headed in the opposite direction toward the Soviet border.

Soldiers waved from outposts in the hills overlooking the road. The Salang highway is lined with burnt-out tanks and the rusting hulks of lorries, vivid reminders of the battles for control of the road first between Soviet troops, who withdrew finally in February this year, and Afghan rebels, and now between the rebels and the Afghan army.

Other vehicles littered the banks of the Salang River that snakes along beside the road.

Further on, small villages tucked into the hillsides or straddling ridges have been reduced to ruins, damaged in crossfire during the 10-year-old civil war and then destroyed in a combined Soviet and Afghan sweep in early January.

The highway was the main route for Soviet troops leaving Afghanistan in February and the villages were levelled to deny them to rebels planning to attack the retreating forces.

Reports say hundreds of villages, suspected of being Mujahedeen strongholds, were destroyed by aerial attacks and artillery fire.

Colonel Barakatullah, deputy commander at the Bogha Maidon army outpost, 26 kilometres south of the Salang tunnel, said the villagers were told to evacuate the area before the operation.

However, diplomatic sources in Kabul said many of the villagers chose not to leave and many were killed when the drive began.

One journalist who visited the area last November sadly recalled the thriving atmosphere of these communities which now lay in ruin. Barakatullah said that after the Soviet withdrawal the Mujahedeen tried to cut the road but were unsuccessful because the army had established new posts along it.

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Horizons wide for cooperation

THE VERY fact that India is organising an exclusive Indian trade exhibition in Amman Sept. 14-22, 1989, for the first time is both an indicator of growing economic and industrial relations between Jordan and India and an important step to fulfill the potential for cooperation in this field in the background of extremely friendly and close relations not only between the leadership of the two countries but also between the two peoples at all levels.

India is the second most important trading partner for Jordan's exports. The organisation of the fair, following exchange of visits, including the recent one in June of an Indian delegation comprising eminent industrialists and businessmen, would provide

an opportunity to importers and entrepreneurs in Jordan to further identify opportunities for imports of consumer, industrial and capital goods from India and select new avenues for industrial cooperation through joint ventures. The potential for cooperation is diverse and wide ranging, including high technology both for local consumption and for exports.

India is the 10th largest industrial nation in the world and produces everything both for its own use and exports; covering consumer, industrial and capital goods in the field of agriculture, light and heavy engineering, defence, textiles, petro-chemicals, pharmaceuticals, transport, railways, buses, automobiles, ships and aircraft, energy — hydro-power, thermal, nuclear



K. Gajendra Singh
Ambassador of India

lites and space technology. The Indian government and its industrial trading and scientific community offer their hand of friendship to share their expertise and experience of industrialisation with entrepreneurs, businessmen and industrialists from the friendly country of Jordan.

The exhibition is but a small window on the wide variety of industrial know-how, technology, consultancy services etc. available in India. I hope that it will act as a catalyst for greater collaboration for mutual benefit in order to fulfill the potential for cooperation and to rise upto the expectations of the top leadership of the two countries.

First step in a long march

INDIA attaches great importance to its traditionally close ties with the people and the government of Jordan. Apart from the links established centuries ago, the two countries have worked in close cooperation resulting in friendly ties at the highest level. His Majesty the King of Jordan visited us in '86, the Crown Prince in April '88, and later our Prime Minister paid an official visit to Jordan in July '88.

Fortunately for us, there are complementarities in the economies of the two countries. These provide a good base for a truly wide ranging trade relationship. Jordan's priorities in the area of construction and industrial projects, also offer interesting new possibilities for cooperation with India, which has gained diversified experience in its own quest for technological self-reliance. It must, however, be admitted that the present profile of bilateral trade does not reflect the true potential or the exceptional friendly relations between the two countries.

The Trade Fair Authority of India is organising an exclusive Indian Exhibition in Jordan for the first time. I hope the Exhibition will make a useful contribution to creating better awareness of Indian capabilities and stimulating interaction on new possibilities in trade and economic cooperation.

A.N. VARMA
Chairman T.F.A.I.
Secretary, Ministry of Commerce
Government of India

FACT SHEET

INDIAN TRADE

EXHIBITION, JORDAN

Objective:

To project India's industrial and technological progress and to explore possibilities of providing consultancy services, to strengthen economic and trade relations and widen the scope for exports.

Dates:

Sept. 14-22, 1989

Timings:

10.00 hrs - 13.00 hrs
(For Business Visitors)
16.00 hrs - 20.00 hrs
(For General Public)

Venue:

International Exhibition Hall,
Marj Al-Hamam, Amman

Profile of participants:

Leading Indian companies engaged in the manufacture of a broad product range.

Range of display

Engineering goods including automobile spare parts, agricultural implements, telecommunication systems, consultancy services, office equipment, earth moving equipment, cinema projectors, etc.

optic lenses, cosmetics and other consumer goods.

Business visitors:

Business organisations and industrial importers/exporters have been invited to the Exhibition. Invitees include those from the neighbouring countries.

SEMINARS:

A seminar will be held at 4 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 14, 1989, at the exhibition site on "Jordan-India Trade and Economic Cooperation" with the active support of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Industry and Commerce. All interested officials, businessmen and industrialists from Jordan are requested to attend.

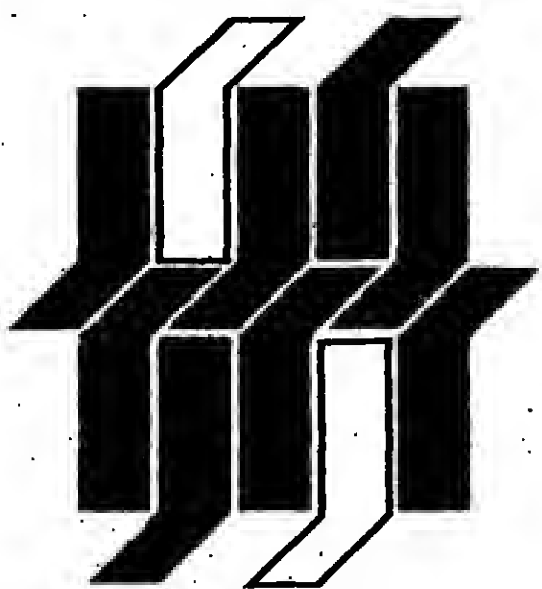
A symposium on "Telecommunication Technology" will be held at the exhibition site on Saturday, Sept. 16, 1989, with the active involvement of the Indian Telephone Industries Limited and the Telecommunication Corporation of Jordan. The pre-lunch session, opening at 10 a.m., will deal with transmission technology and the afternoon session, beginning at 4 p.m., will concentrate on switching systems.

The exhibition offers a kaleidoscopic view of the overall development of India in various fields and the competitive edge it offers in the context of economic cooperation with the friendly Arab countries in general and Jordan in particular.



TIES THAT SPAN DECADES: His Majesty King Hussein with then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, architect of modern India, and his daughter, Indira

Gandhi, who went on to succeed him as prime minister, during a visit the King paid to India in 1963.



INDIAN TRADE EXHIBITION

AT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION HALL, MARJ AL-HAMAM

SEPTEMBER 14-22, 1989

TIMINGS: 10.00 hrs. - 13.00 hrs. (For Business Visitors)
16.00 hrs. - 20.00 hrs. (For General Public)

DISPLAY PROFILE

Engineering goods including automobile spare parts, agricultural implements, telecommunication systems, consultancy services, office equipment, earth moving equipment, cinema projectors, machine tools, hand tools, builders hardware, cosmetics and other consumer goods.

PARTICIPATION PROFILE

Leading Indian companies engaged in the manufacture of a broad product range.

BUSINESS SYMPOSIA

- Seminar on Jordan-India Trade & Economic Co-operation on September 14, 1989 at 4.00 p.m.
- Symposium on Telecommunication Technology on September 16, 1989 at 10 a.m.
at EXHIBITION HALL

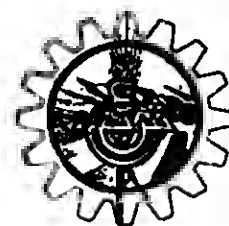
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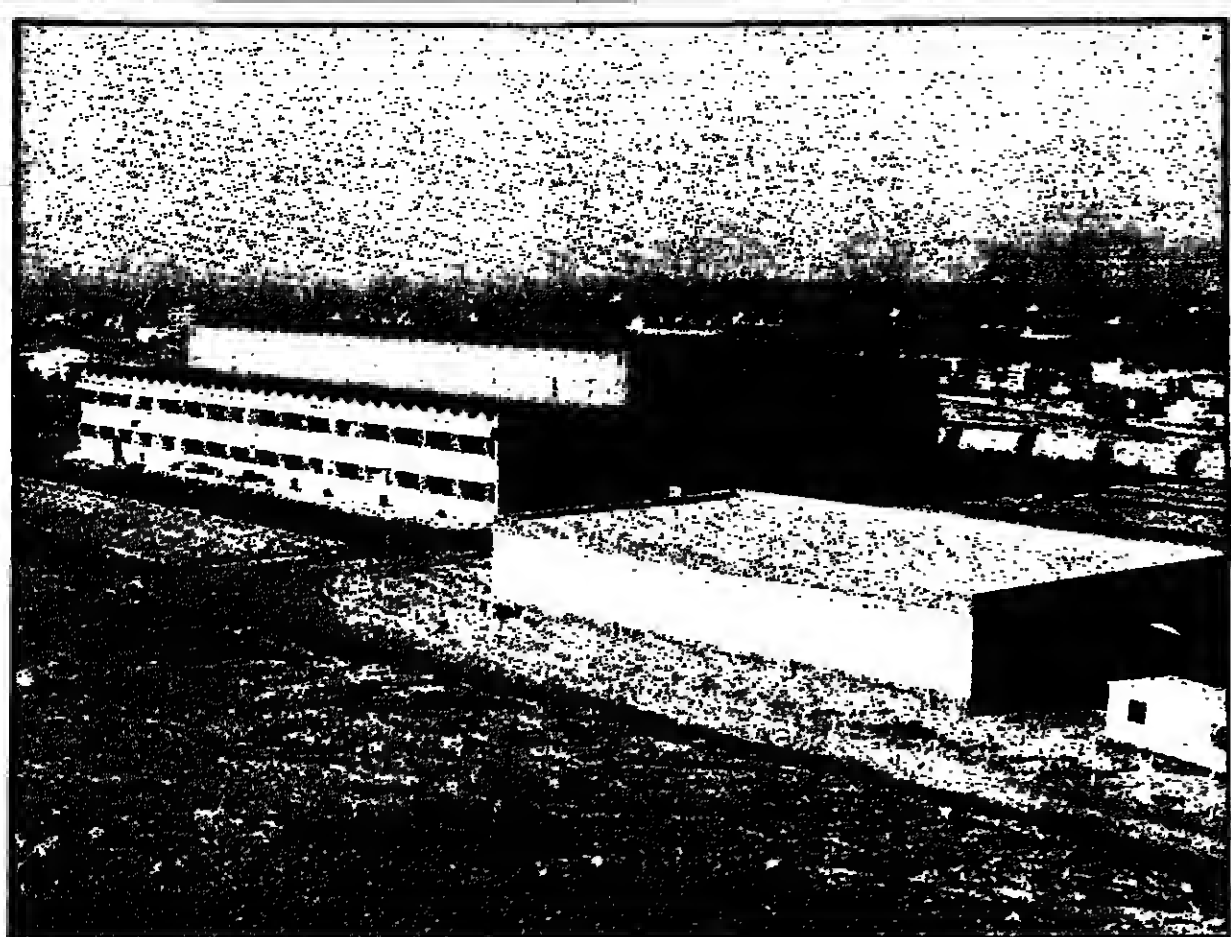
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On the occasion of the Indian Trade Exhibition
at
Amman, Jordan

APC AND MMTC, India's largest international trading company, have a long and fruitful association, an association that is contributing and will contribute to rapid growth of trade of between Jordan and India at present and future.

Cordial welcome to all Indian Industry delegates participating in this promising trade fair.

AHLAN WA SAHLAN



A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF INDO-JORDANIAN COOPERATION

An external view of the recently completed turnkey Railway work shop complex built by Indian Railway Construction Company Ltd (IRCON) (A Government of India Undertaking) for the Aqaba Railway Corporation at Aqaba, fulfilling its long felt need for repair and maintenance of Locomotives.



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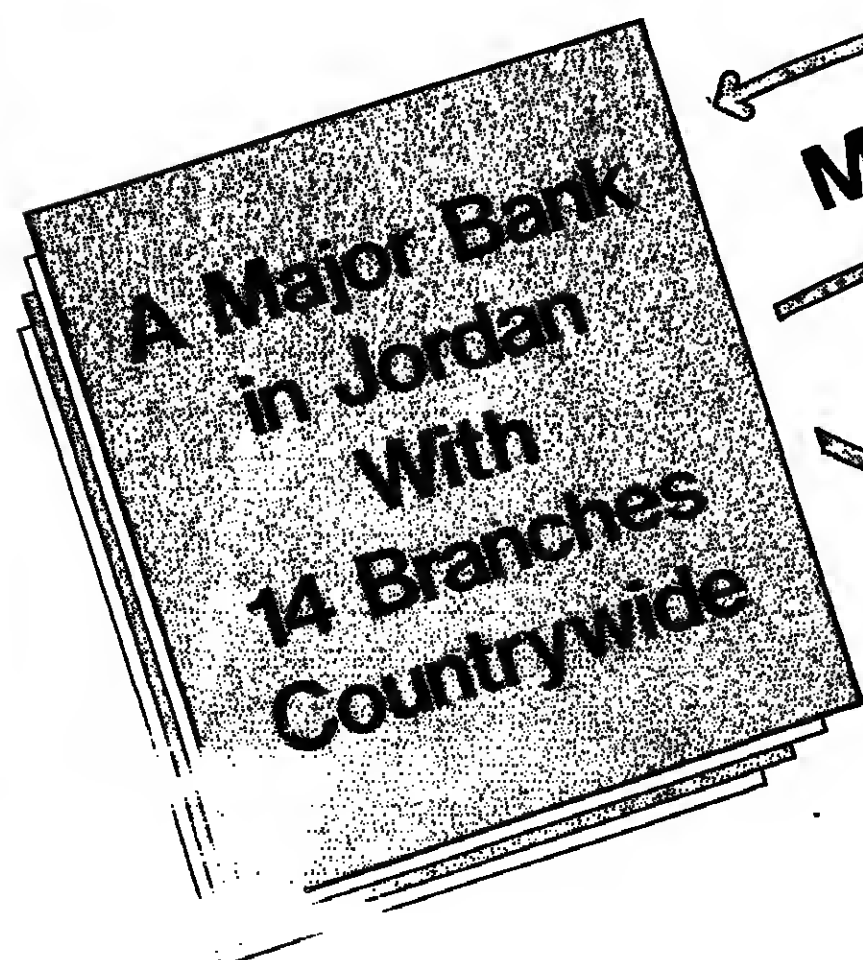
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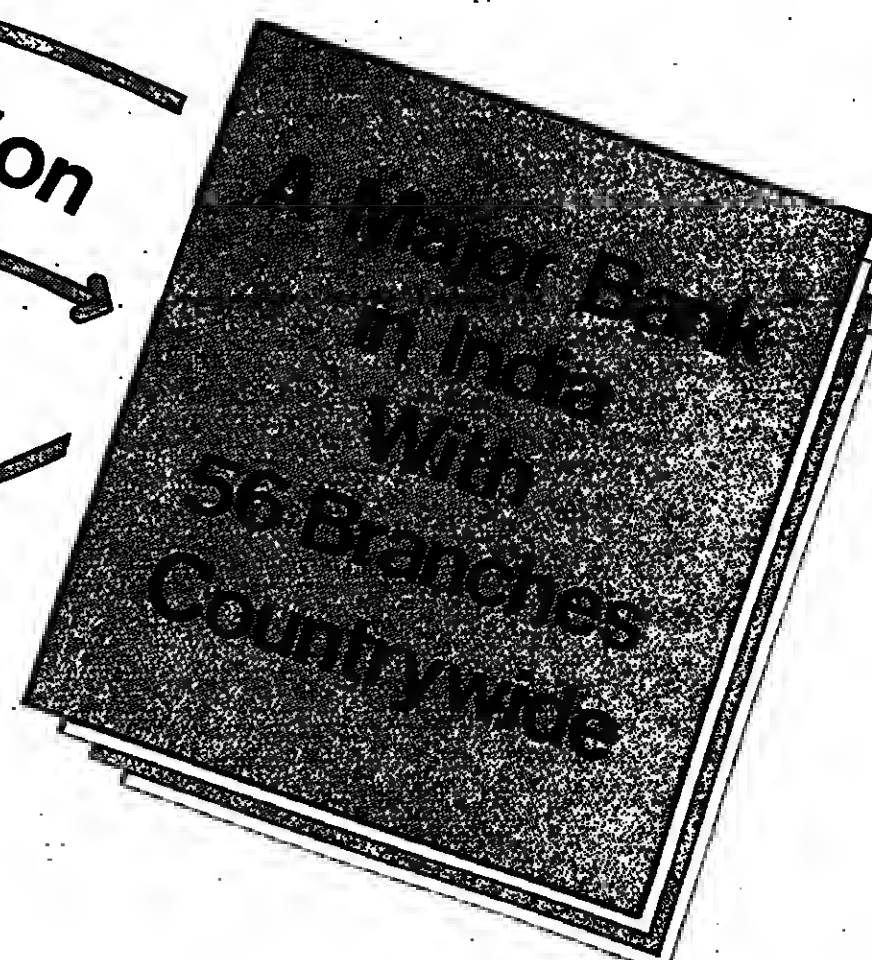
Bankers to the Indian Trade Exhibition Welcomes Delegates and Visitors

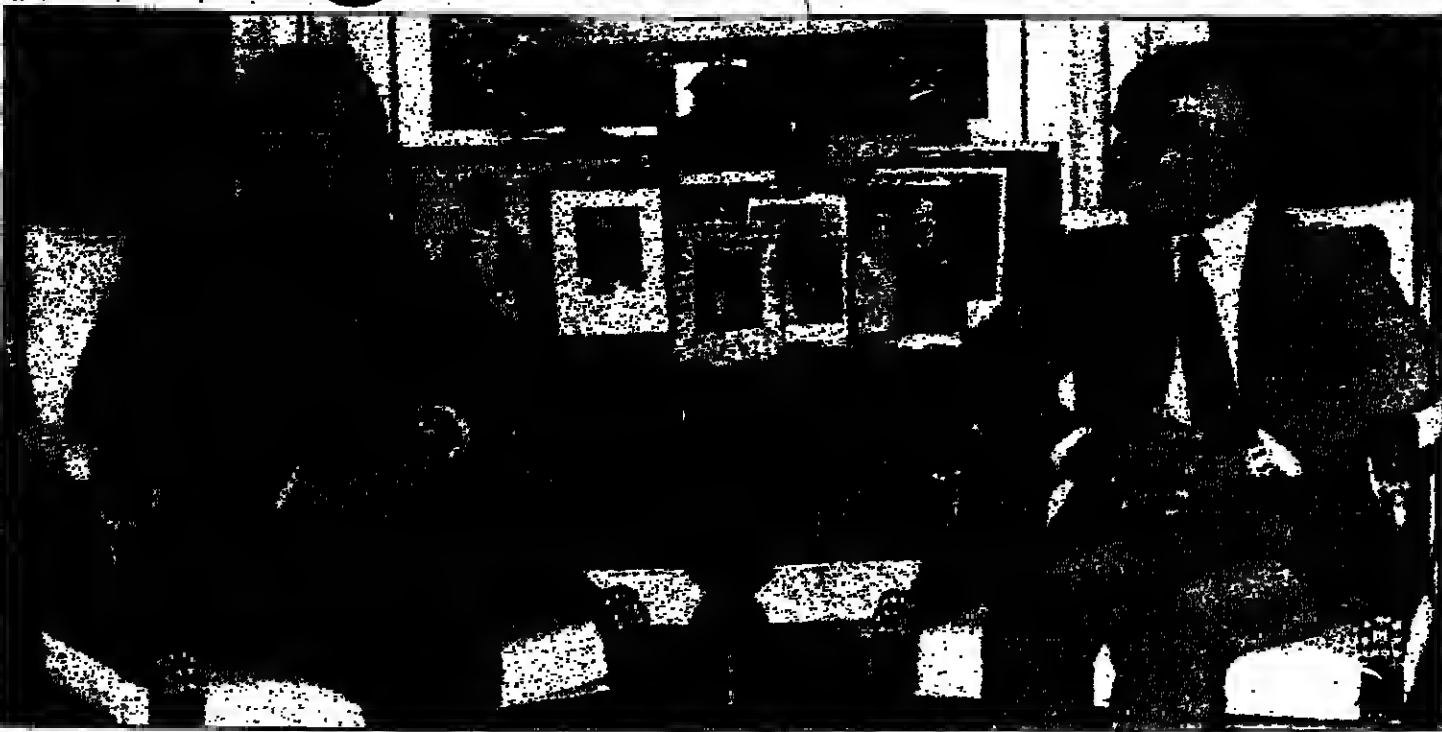


Make the Trade Connection

With Grindlays Help

ANZ worldwide





His Majesty King Hussein and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during the Indian leader's visit to Jordan in July 1988

Jordan-India trade — the evolution

TRADE between India and Jordan is governed by a Trade Agreement signed in February 1976. The Agreement replaced the earlier Trade Agreement signed in 1963. The new Agreement abolished quotas for Indian goods like tea, steel rods and bars, iron and steel tubes and pipes, cotton fabrics and miscellaneous products. India's exports to Jordan are mainly tea, steel tubes and pipes, hand tools, pharmaceuticals, ready-made garments and electric goods, etc.

Two-way trade

Imports made by India from Jordan consist mainly of potassium, raw phosphate and fertilizers. The balance of trade has been in favour of Jordan for quite some time, with the latest figure for 1988 reading U.S.\$116.662 million (Exports to Jordan reading only \$6.716 million against imports worth U.S.\$122.838 million). The imbalance is mainly because of sizeable imports of rock-phosphate by India from Jordan.

In order to streamline the two-way trade between the two countries and to correct the imbalance of trade, the agreed minutes of the second Indo-Jordanian Trade and Economic Joint Committee meetings which were

held in New Delhi in March 1987, called for increasing trade volume between the two countries and the Jordanian side agreed to make all possible attempts to import goods from India up to \$40 million during 1987.

Both sides agreed to putting up joint industrial projects for fertilizers either in Jordan or in India, utilising Jordanian raw material for manufacturing products and for marketing the products in both the countries. However, whereas India was able to meet the import targets, Jordan's imports from India remained very low, thus tilting the balance of trade in Jordan's favour. The matter was again taken up in the third meeting of the Indo-Jordanian Joint Committee held in Amman from March 27, 1989 to April 1, 1989. Jordan agreed to increase its imports from India to the tune of \$50 million in 1989. India agreed to increase its level of imports from Jordan by \$20-30 million during 1989 and agreed to import 1,200,000 to 1,500,000 tonnes of rock phosphate, 500,000 to 550,000 tonnes of MOP and 200,000 tonnes of DAP.

Projects

As far as projects are concerned, a road construction pro-

ject was awarded to M/s Som Dutt Builders and MMTC consortium involving total value of \$120 million. The Indian Railway Construction Company, a public sector company was also granted a workshop extension project at Aqaba involving a total value of five million U.S. dollars. The Government of Jordan has further assured that they are taking steps to encourage imports from India and evolve systems so as to source the imports both in public and private sector from India.

Trade Agreement

India's exports to Jordan included in the 1976 Agreement are: tea and coffee; spices including dry ginger, tamarind; henna leaves and powder; vegetable oils and oil cakes; tobacco and tobacco manufactures; rice; sugar; fresh and frozen meats; finished leather and manufactures thereof; engineering goods, including all types of machinery, plants, projects, transport equipment and accessories, power generation, transmission and distribution machinery and equipment, electrical machinery and equipment, domestic appliances of all sorts etc.; cotton/woollen/man-made fibres/textiles and manufactures thereof; woollen hosiery and knit-

wear; jute manufactures; coal and coal products; chemicals (including dyes), drugs and pharmaceuticals; industrial explosives; glass manufactures; sanitaryware and fittings; rubber manufactures including tyres and tubes, etc.; plywood; paper and paper products; paints and varnishes; plastics and linoleum; developed cinematographic films; iron and steel items, including billets, blooms, bars and rods, wires, pipes and tubes etc.; cement, asbestos cement and products thereof; sports goods; army software; electronic equipment including radios; telecommunication equipment, etc.; dry and storage batteries; other items such as confectionery, books and stationery articles; agarbattis, etc.

Indian Trade Exhibition

In view of the vast scope that exists for improving trade and commerce, as also to correct the imbalance of trade, a wholly India Trade Exhibition is being held in Amman. The exhibition proposes to bring to the fore India's capabilities in diverse fields. The exhibition also offers an opportunity for interaction between the business communities of the two countries to forge closer relations, and result in mutually beneficial deals.

'Trade fair culture' deeply embedded in Indian strategy

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The "trade fair culture," which now dominates international business, not only owes its origins to India but it has also mushroomed into all of its modern manifestations in the country, according to V.D.N. Rao, director of the Sept. 14-22 Indian Trade Exhibition in Amman.

"The art of displaying wares for sales in special arenas is very much pronounced in India's history dating back to thousands of years," says Mr. Rao, general manager of the Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI). "What you will be seeing in Amman is a transformation of the concept of our ancient 'melas' (village fairs) where everyone who had something to sell converged and sought to attract buyers."

"What we have been doing over the years is to absorb and develop the concept of attracting business through display in

all modern forms and shapes," adds Rao, a TFAI veteran of over 100 international fairs in Western Europe and the Gulf Arab states. "India, like any other country, has totally accepted the idea that trade fairs are the most cost-effective way of export promotion through physically getting your message across to interested parties."

"It's very unfortunate that we did not come to Jordan earlier," he says. "We find tremendous potential in the Kingdom not only in trade but also in long-term industrial projects where India can offer its technology."

Rao pointed out that TFAI, which was established in 1977, now organises dozens of trade exhibitions every year in various parts of India itself, many of them specialised gatherings for a particular line of product. He cites as examples the India International Leather Fair, which is held every January in the southern city of Madras, and the Ahare (Food) Fair and

the Indian International Electronics Exhibition held in New Delhi. But, the most colourful and major event for the authority is its annual India International Trade Fair held every November in New Delhi. More than 40 countries take part in the fair.

The Sept. 14-22 event in Amman, according to Rao, is a "modest effort but aiming at lasting results." He expresses confidence that it "will open up a new chapter in Jordanian-Indian economic relations and industrial cooperation."

"We hope to come back with fresher ideas and thoughts," he says. "We hope to make an Indian trade fair in Jordan a regular event."

One of the things that has impressed Rao in Jordan is the "efficiency and cooperation of its people, whether on the official level or otherwise."

He has high words of praise for officials of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Amman Chamber of Commerce, the Amman Chamber of Indus-



V.D.N. Rao

try and the Jordanian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. "Without the extensive help they extended to us, we would have faced great difficulties in organising the event," he said. "The same goes for the people from the ministry of finance and customs, who were extremely helpful to us in every sphere."

Indian Telephone Industries — a reckonable force in telecommunications

INDIAN Telephone Industries Limited (ITI), India's first post-independent public sector undertaking, is a pioneer in telecommunications. It manufactures the entire range of telecommunications equipment, from simple telephones to complex fibre optic systems and satellite communications systems.

ITI has grown over the years into a giant undertaking with several manufacturing units spread all over India (i.e. at Bangalore, Sringeri, Naini, Rae Bareilly, Faizabad and Mathura). It has a work force of more than 32,000 employees and it registered a turnover of \$460 million during 1988-89. Backed by some of the most talented engineers and scientists in the country, ITI can design, develop and manufacture

equipment tailored to meet specific needs. ITI can also take up turnkey jobs for complete telecom networks.

ITI also has to its credit a number of turnkey jobs executed abroad in over 40 countries. These include Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Yemen, Sri Lanka, Nepal, England, Australia, Singapore, Bhutan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan and others.

ITI has played a pioneering role in research and development (R&D) in telecommunication systems. The R&D wing employs some of the most talented and experienced scientists and engineers in the country and has advanced facilities such as a hybrid micro-circuit lab, a large scale integrated circuit lab, an environmental lab and a compu-

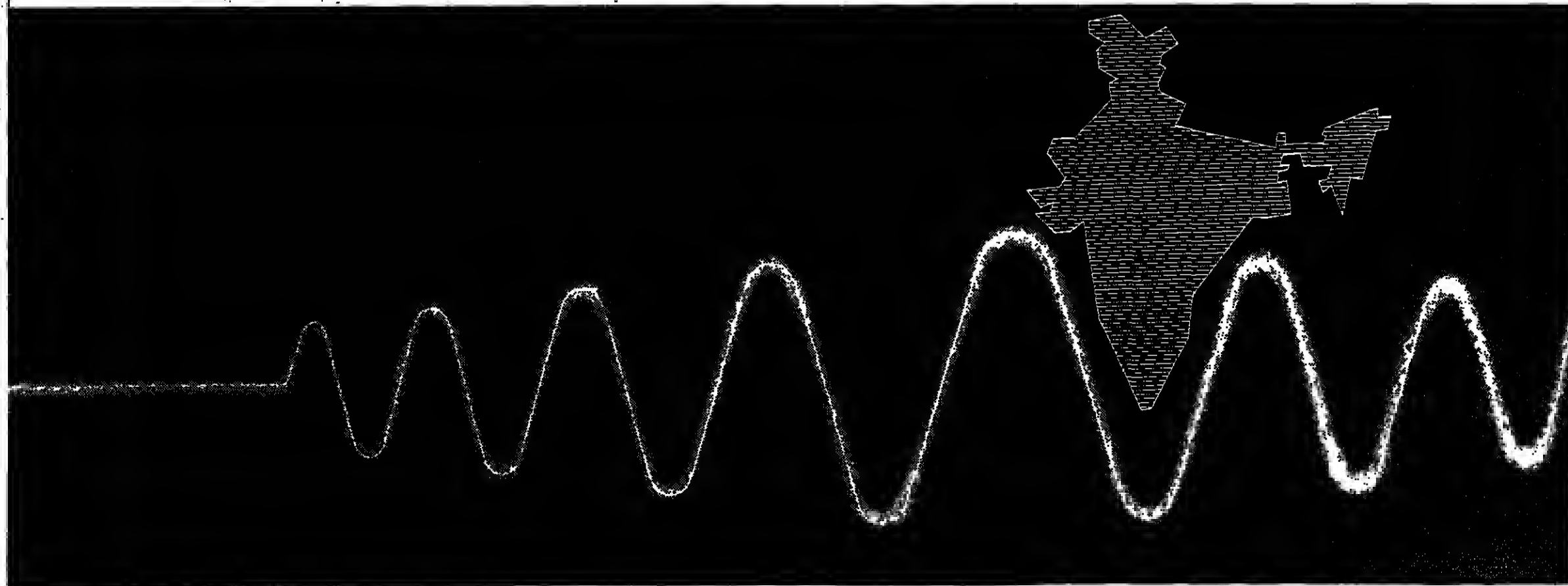
ter aided design centre. The range of products manufactured by ITI include:

Telephone instruments of various types, electromechanical switching systems, strowger and crossbar types, E10B electronic main automatic and trunk automatic exchanges, electronic telex exchanges, PCM systems - (2Mb/s, 8Mb/s, 34Mb/s, 140Mb/s), microwave radio relay systems, military communication equipment, railway control and communication equipment, satellite earth station equipment, SCADA systems, small capacity — digital rural exchanges, EPABXs, CAD systems for PCB&LSI design, digital microwave systems, digital coaxial systems, optical communica-

tion equipment, micro earth stations for data, digital UHF systems, packet switching and ISDN; office automation systems.

In the past, ITI had executed orders in Jordan to the extent of \$ 2.5 million. It executed orders like commissioning of a main automatic exchange at Salt town, supply and installation for 24 additional positions at the International manual centre, Amman. These orders were followed by several other contracts, especially a turnkey project for engineering, supply, delivery and installation of exchange equipment for upgradation of the telecom network in Amman. ITI also received a maintenance contract from the Jordanian Telecommunications Corporation.

THE INDIAN LINK IN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Indian Telephone Industries Limited is India's biggest and most versatile telecommunications equipment manufacturing company. One of the few in the world that can offer a wide variety of equipment to meet total telecommunication needs.

From telephones to radio relay, fibre optic and satellite communication equipment.

Besides, ITI has also developed and manufactured a number of sophisticated electronic switching systems, digital switching systems, optical fibre communication systems, satellite earth stations, packet switching equipment — to name a few.

Backed by some of the most talented engineers in the world, ITI can design, develop and manufacture equipment to suit specific needs for hotels, offices, coal mines, electricity boards, defence systems, railways, and so many more.

ITI can also undertake turnkey jobs for complete telecom networks and has, over the years, lent its specialised services to more than 40 countries worldwide.

Today, with the extensive resources of its own R&D set-up coupled with the best technology, ITI has dedicated itself to the constant development of telecommunications, to bringing people all over the world closer to each other — and to the future.

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Corporate Office: 49, Museum Road
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MMTC, India's largest international trading company,

invites you

To a display of a wide and exciting range of Indian products plain or studded with precious stones at the MMTC pavilion, Indian Trade Fair, on show at Amman.

On display are a wide range of engineering and consumer goods, goods created by exquisite production skills, technological and manufacturing capabilities and oriented to Jordan's needs. There is more: an exhibition-cum-sale of exclusive gold jewellery produced by the master craftsmen from India.

Open daily from Sept. 14 to Sept. 22, 1989, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. exclusively for business visitors; 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for all others

We welcome you to also contact:

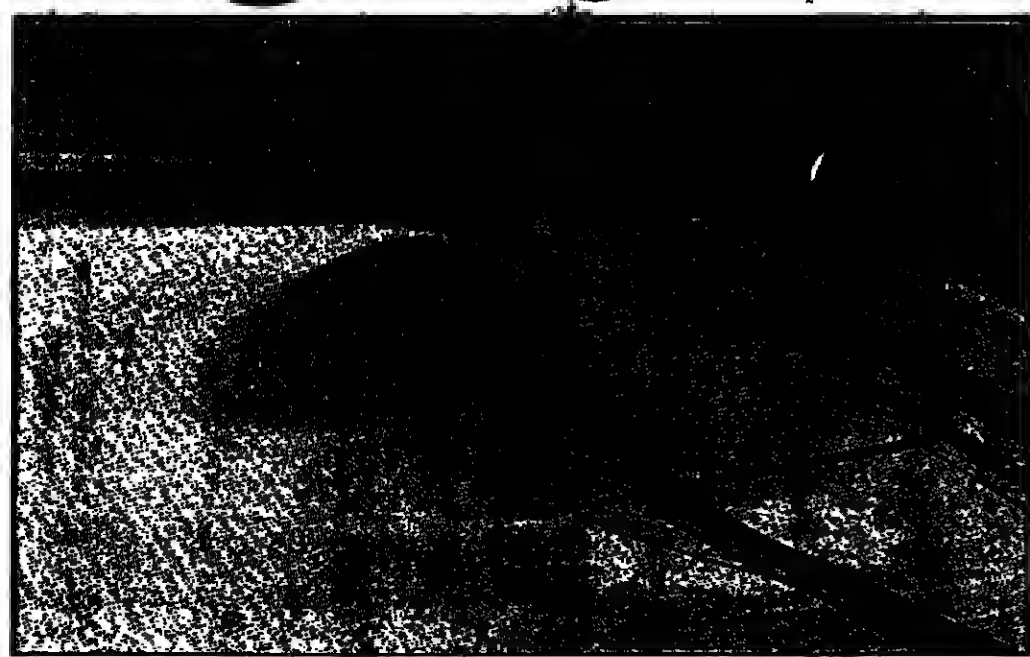
**Our Resident Manager
Mr. A.K. Gandhi,**

The MMTC of India Ltd., Shami Plaza Building P.O. Box No. 925067, AMMAN Telephone: 682883

Supplement prepared by P. V. Vivekanand.



Jordan Phosphate Mines Company Augmentation of Indo-Jordanian cooperation



Primary handling of phosphate at Chaltyn

JPMC welcomes the esteemed Indian companies participating in the primary "Indian Trade Exhibition" in Jordan.

A show case of India's industrial achievements which displays the marvels of dedication, unlimited ambition and tenacity for success.



Processed phosphate

JPMC & MMTC have been for more than four decades joining efforts to provide to the Indian fertilizer industry the required quality phosphate, the much needed for India's agriculture prosperity. Jordanian-Indian relations have always been in an extraordinary atmosphere characterised by understanding and cooperation.

We are confident that the Indian Trade Exhibition will open further horizons and that our cooperation will continue to grow to the benefit of both countries through entwined efforts and that Jordanian fertilizers will continue to contribute to enhancing the endeavours of India's farmers.



The fertilizer complex at Aqaba

SEPT / SEPT

Le schéma est désormais classique. Au moment même où le triumvirat de la Ligue arabe (Algérie-Maroc-Arabie Saoudite) s'apprête à relancer sa mission de paix au LIBAN, les affrontements ont repris de plus belle à Beyrouth. La marine syrienne a notamment renforcé son blocus du «réduit chrétien» en ouvrant le feu lundi sur deux navires, dont l'aéroglisseur qui assure l'unique liaison avec Chypre. Le «Santa Maria», avec 330 passagers à son bord, non plus que le cargo «Clara», transportant des produits alimentaires à destination du Liban, n'ont été touchés par les salves des vedettes de Damas. Cet épisode illustre cependant les difficultés auxquelles continuent de faire face les leaders arabes pour résoudre la dernière crise libanaise, longue déjà de six mois. La plupart d'entre eux se disent néanmoins «confiants» dans les chances du triumvirat de parvenir à un véritable cessez-le-feu, à l'instar du roi Hussein, qui lundi encore a rappelé qu'«aucun sommet arabe n'était pour le moment envisagé». Un optimisme et même une «satisfaction», que la France a partagé le même jour par la voix du secrétaire général du ministère des Affaires étrangères, François Sœur, qui achevait à Rabat sa tournée des capitales concernées par le conflit.

La PROPOSITION EN DIX POINTS du président égyptien pour résoudre la guerre israélo-palestinienne a reçu depuis le week-end dernier l'appui de plusieurs personnalités de l'OLP, dont Abou Mazen, membre du comité exécutif de la centrale palestinienne. Ce dernier a notamment approuvé que l'initiative d'Hosni Moubarak, en faveur d'élections dans les territoires occupés, s'inscrive «dans le cadre d'un règlement global». Alors que le Front populaire de libération de la Palestine de Georges Habbache rappelle depuis Damas son opposition à tout scrutin sous occupation israélienne, le conseiller de Yasser Arafat, Bassam Abou Sharif, s'est dit «prêt à rencontrer immédiatement un membre du Parti travailliste [israélien] pour discuter tous les détails» de ce nouveau plan. Une déclaration qui faisait suite à celle de Shimon Perez, selon lequel le «plan Moubarak» pourrait servir de base à des négociations avec des Palestiniens. En totale contradiction avec son premier ministre, Yitzhak Shamir, le leader du centre-gauche israélien a ajouté qu'il était en faveur de la participation des Palestiniens de Jérusalem-Est à d'éventuelles élections. M. Perez a également rappelé que son parti avait fait sien le principe des «territoires contre la paix», pierre angulaire de tout dialogue direct avec l'OLP. (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Nominations. Ali Suheimat a été nommé mardi maire du Grand Amman en remplacement d'Abdoul Raouf Rawabdeh. Ce dernier avait démissionné au début du mois pour pouvoir se présenter aux élections générales du 8 novembre prochain. Par ailleurs, le général Fadel Ali a succédé au général Hadi al Majali à la tête de la Sécurité générale du royaume. Le nouveau directeur était jusqu'à présent le commandant des forces blindées spéciales de l'armée jordanienne.

Accord sur la dette. La Jordanie et le Club de Londres sont parvenus lundi à Amman à un accord de principe pour le rééchelonnement d'une partie de la dette extérieure du royaume, estimée à 1,1 milliard de dollars. Au terme de deux jours de négociations, les banques privées créancières ont accepté d'étaler le remboursement de 575 millions de dollars (payables avant le 30 juin 1991) sur une période de 11 ans, avec un délai de grâce de 5 ans. Amman s'est engagé en contrepartie à verser l'intégralité des intérêts dus sur ce montant pour 1989, et qui s'élevait à 82 millions de dollars. Une nouvelle réunion doit se tenir dans la capitale britannique, à une date non encore précisée, pour finaliser l'accord.

Mitterrand à Lisbonne. Le président français Mitterrand, se rendra mardi prochain à Lisbonne dans le cadre d'une tournée des capitales de la Communauté économique européenne, qu'il a engagée en sa qualité de président en exercice de la CEE. Le chef de l'Etat s'entretiendra notamment avec le premier ministre portugais, Calvo Silva, au cours de cette visite.

Vatican-Kremlin. L'ambassadeur soviétique à Rome a confirmé dimanche que Mikhaïl Gorbatchev rencontrerait Jean-Paul II au Vatican, à l'occasion de sa prochaine visite officielle en Italie au mois de novembre. Cette annonce fait suite au courrier adressé par le numéro un du Kremlin au pape, il y a trois semaines.

«Erreur». La «plus grosse erreur» que Solidarité ait jamais faite est d'avoir accepté le poste de premier ministre dans le nouveau gouvernement polonais, a déclaré lundi soir à la BBC le chef historique du syndicat, Lech Walesa. Expliquant que son mouvement n'était pas «prêt», le leader de Solidarité a estimé que ses amis avaient dû accepter «faute de choix» de participer au pouvoir, pour empêcher une reconstitution du monopole du parti communiste.

92 ans de prison. Un membre de l'Armée républicaine irlandaise a été condamné lundi à 92 ans de prison par la cour d'assises de Belfast. Damien Martin Nicoll, 22 ans, avait servi d'éclaireur aux tireurs de l'IRA, qui ont abattu un jeune policier en mars 1981 à Londonderry.

Réfugiés. L'ouverture des frontières occidentales de la Hongrie s'est traduite lundi et mardi par le passage en RFA de plus de 8.000 réfugiés est-allemands. Selon Bonn, qui s'est félicité de l'attitude de Budapest, près de 20.000 autres ressortissants est-allemands sont entrés en Hongrie dans de même temps. Berlin-Est a accusé mardi la RFA de mener une campagne de «calomnie» et la Hongrie de «rupture unilatérale» des accords de contrôle des migrations entre les deux pays.

Trafic. La justice néerlandaise a ordonné lundi l'ouverture d'une enquête sur un trafic de tissus humains entre les Pays-Bas et l'Allemagne fédérale. Ces tissus, prélevés sur des patients décédés dans des hôpitaux hollandais sans l'autorisation des familles, sont notamment destinés à des opérations de chirurgie esthétique, et acheminés par l'intermédiaire d'une société d'appareillage médical, Brown Medical. Le trafic a été découvert début août à la frontière entre les deux pays.

Non conformes. Près de la moitié des médicaments de l'industrie pharmaceutique suisse, troisième exportateur mondial, vendus dans le tiers monde ne sont pas conformes aux exigences cliniques et pharmacologiques, selon l'étude d'un médecin allemand, le docteur Robert Hartog. Certains, selon lui, sont même dangereux. 17% seulement des médicaments helvétiques exportés figurent sur la liste des produits essentiels, établie par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé.

Antisémitisme. Le parquet de Paris a ouvert samedi une enquête judiciaire contre le cinéaste Claude Autant-Lara, pour «complicité d'injures raciales» et «provocation à la haine raciale». Cette décision fait suite aux attaques proférées par l'ex-député du Front national (extrême-droite) contre les juifs et l'ancien président du Parlement de Strasbourg, Simone Veil, dans le magazine «Globe». Les propos d'Autant-Lara (Les juifs, «ethnie politique qui essaie de s'implanter et de dominer», «Quand on me parle de génocide, je dis, en tout cas, ils ont raté la mère Veil») ont provoqué un tollé d'indignations dans la classe politique française, comme parmi de nombreuses organisations religieuses et humanitaires.

Très cher. Entre 1.500 et 2.300 dollars serait le prix à payer pour... avoir le droit de faire la manche sur les Champs-Élysées. C'est ce qu'a affirmé lundi à Paris le «comité de sauvegarde des Champs-Élysées», en dénonçant la «course des miracles» qui menace selon lui le site.

Arrêt brutal de l'extension du réseau, factures impayées...

Le téléphone jordanien sur le fil

Avec l'abandon du dernier plan quinquennal, le projet d'extension du réseau téléphonique jordanien est passé à la trappe. L'aggravation brutale de la crise économique et financière, que traverse le royaume, a sonné le glas des projets de développement de la Télécommunication Corporation (TCC). Un coup dur pour les habitants des quelque 300 villages et petites localités du royaume, qui attendaient avec impatience leur raccordement.



Mohammad Shabid Ismail (à gauche), directeur général de la TCC, dont les ambitions ont plus que mal à survivre à l'austérité économique et qui, faute de mieux, remet les téléphones à l'ordre du jour.



Révision à la baisse. Touché de plein fouet par la suppression du plan quinquennal 1988/1992, le service des télécommunications jordanien et ses 3.450 salariés ont dû adopter un profil bas. Après six années de développement et de modernisation du réseau téléphonique national, qui permettaient aujourd'hui à 250.000 foyers et bureaux de bénéficier de lignes automatiques, la TCC se retrouve en état de quasi léthargie.

«Nous prévoyions l'installation de plus de 200.000 nouvelles lignes (1) pour assurer la couverture complète du pays, explique son directeur, Mohammad Shabid Ismail. Elles devaient permettre de supprimer les opérateurs, encore nécessaires dans plus de 300 localités, et de servir enfin autant d'autres villages et petites villes toujours privés de téléphones. Le coup est plutôt dur pour ces derniers, qui devront vraisemblablement patienter plus de 5 ans encore avant de sortir de leur isolement.

L'implantation de 14 nouveaux centraux téléphoniques et de 76 «satellites» (relais des centraux), affichée dans le rapport d'activité

1987 de la TCC comme l'un de ses objectifs majeurs à l'aube des années 1990, restera donc lettre morte. Tout comme le remplacement de l'une des grandes antennes paraboliques de réception satellite dans la plaine de Baqa ou encore la construction d'un nouveau centre de communications nationales et internationales à Amman.

Contrats dénoncés

Difficile à avaler pour la compagnie nationale, l'abandon de ces projets a également affecté les deux grands fournisseurs étrangers d'équipements et de services à la Jordanie: Alcatel, côté français et NEC, côté japonais. D'autant plus, que l'un et l'autre ont déjà construit, au début de la décennie, les 21 centraux numériques et les 58 satellites du réseau automatique du royaume.

A la tête d'un consortium, qui regroupait également TKT et les Câbles de Lyon, Alcatel a été le maître d'œuvre de la pose des lignes et de tous les raccordements dans la moitié nord du pays, Amman y compris. Un contrat qui représentait 590 millions

de francs en 1981. «L'année dernière, nous avions signé un nouvel accord de gré à gré portant sur la mise en place de 14.000 lignes supplémentaires», rappelle Hervé Guennoc, chargé par Alcatel de l'assistance technique à la TCC. Estimé à 80 millions de francs, ce dernier contrat ne sera pas honoré.

«En tant qu'organisme d'Etat, nous n'avons pas le choix», commente Mohammad Shabid Ismail. Malgré son statut «commercial» et d'importants bénéfices (2), la TCC n'a plus un sou à investir. «Les profits que nous faisons sont directement versés à la banque centrale. Quant à notre budget, il dépend directement du ministère des Transports et des Communications», poursuit-il.

Mises à la diète pour cause d'austérité, les télécom jordanien tentent néanmoins de convaincre le gouvernement de donner son feu vert à un «plan d'urgence», en cours d'élaboration au siège de la TCC. «Il s'agit pour nous d'obtenir l'argent nécessaire à l'optimisation de certaines infrastructures déjà en place. C'est le cas de plusieurs centraux et satellites, sur lesquels

nous pouvons encore connecter de nouveaux abonnés», souligne son directeur général.

Un trou de 5 millions

Ces mesures se révèlent d'autant plus indispensables, reconnaît-on à la TCC, que les listes d'attente pour obtenir une ligne s'allongent de jour en jour. «Le réseau étant presque totalement saturé, certaines demandes d'abonnement peuvent prendre un an, avant d'être satisfaites», avoue Mohammad Shabid Ismail. «Il faut souvent attendre la fin d'un abonnement avant de pouvoir brancher un nouveau client», ajoute un technicien.

Un malheur n'arrivant jamais seul, les télécom connaissent d'autres déboires, dont la nette augmentation des factures impayées. Une note, qui selon les services du contentieux de la TCC, s'élève aujourd'hui à 5 millions de dinars. «En six mois, nous avons dû couper plus de 5.000 lignes, précise le directeur général, et presque autant le seront prochainement si les abonnés ne s'exécutent pas avant la fin du mois».

Malgré de nombreux avertissements, certains d'entre eux auront bien du mal à s'acquitter d'une dette, qui culmine parfois au-delà de 3.000 ou 4.000 dinars.

«Les Arabes sont des gens qui aiment parler. Ils restent longtemps au téléphone, même si leur interlocuteur se trouve à l'étranger, ce qui arrive fréquemment, vu le nombre d'expatriés jordaniens», affirme Mohammad Shabid Ismail. D'autres avancent une explication moins sociologique, comme cet ingénieur de la TCC, selon lequel ce manque à gagner vient d'abord de la «politique laxiste de la compagnie à l'égard des mauvais payeurs».

Une version que le directeur général conçoit sans la reconnaître, en indiquant que les télécom ont adopté «récentement» une attitude de fermeté: «désormais, les abonnés ont deux semaines pour payer leur facture. Le premier avertissement se traduit par une interdiction des appels, uniquement. Puis, nous coupons la ligne, avant de rompre le contrat. Enfin, au bout d'un mois, le dossier du client est transmis au ministère des Fi-

nances, qui se charge des poursuites judiciaires».

Confrontée à un avenir à court terme plutôt sombre, la TCC a décidé de remettre les téléphones à l'ordre du jour. 240 cabines et 180 téléphones à pièces et à cartes magnétiques, offerts par la firme américaine Telematic doivent arriver prochainement à Aqaba. «Ils seront installés dans les rues, dans certains établissements publics ou hôtels d'Amman et de quelques autres villes», promet Mohammad Shabid Ismail. Avec une angoisse à peine feinte: celle de les voir rapidement tomber dans le même état de délabrement que la majorité des 200 téléphones déjà en service dans la capitale et qui coûtent des dizaines de milliers de dinars par an à une compagnie exsangue.

Alain Renon.

(1) Le projet, estimé à 100 millions de dinars, avait fait l'objet d'un premier appel d'offre international en février 1988.
(2) En 1987, ils dépassaient 20 millions de dinars, contre 18 millions en 1986.

Exposition à la Cité des Sciences de Paris

Le mystère des poissons électriques

Une horloge pilotée par les décharges électriques naturelles d'un poisson, un gymnarque du Nil, voilà la pièce la plus étrange de l'exposition «L'Invention du Temps», qui présente la Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, à la Villette, depuis le 14 février dernier. Ce gadget met en évidence les possibilités extraordinaires des poissons électriques, dont l'étude est capitale pour comprendre notre propre système nerveux.

Il existe quelque 500 espèces de poissons électriques, la plupart vivant en eau douce. Certains émettent des décharges d'une tension telle (jusqu'à 700 volts), qu'ils s'en servent pour électrocuter leurs proies, comme la raie torpille, l'un des rares poissons de mer électriques. D'autres produisent un courant faible, comme celui d'une pile de poche, qu'ils utilisent comme un radar pour s'orienter et percevoir leur environnement immédiat.

Les poissons électriques exploitent la propriété de l'eau conductrice du courant. Ils émettent continuellement un courant alternatif ou pulsé, qui leur revient modifié par les obstacles rencontrés et qui les renseigne sur la nature, la position, le déplacement et même l'accélération de ces objets. L'émission de courant est d'une telle régularité que l'on peut récupérer cette énergie électrique cadencée, la convertir en secondes et alimenter une horloge. Ou d'importe quoi d'autre: un oscillographe, une ampoule électrique, un haut-parleur... C'est à ce type d'expérimentation que se livrent les chercheurs de l'Aquarium tropical de Nancy, afin de mieux comprendre l'extraordinaire système dont sont équipés les poissons qui vivent dans un monde électrique.

Les organes émetteurs du gymnarque sont constitués de 8 rangées de cellules, appelées électrocytes, disposées sur les flancs. Chacune émet une centaine de millivolts. Même si ce courant ne sert qu'à la détection, il n'en est pas moins une arme redoutable. En effet, vis-à-vis des poissons non-électriques, ce «radar» leur permet de s'approcher de leurs proies inconnues. De plus, entre eux, les poissons électriques n'ont pas besoin de se battre: il leur suffit de brouiller astucieusement le radar de l'adversaire. Un poisson peut choisir la fréquence d'émission d'un congénère, se faire entendre.

Pour capter l'information, 100.000 électro-récepteurs tapissent la peau du poisson (situés principalement sur la partie antérieure du corps) et constituent une véritable «réseau» par laquelle se projette l'image électrique du monde environnant. Le gymnarque peut détecter à plusieurs mètres la présence de sources électriques étrangères et en identifier la nature: partenaïres, congénères, rivaux, proies

ou prédateurs électriques qui échangent ainsi menaces, appels, on... invitations amoureuses. L'interprétation de ces données se fait grâce à des systèmes de codage. Systèmes sur lesquels se penchent aujourd'hui les chercheurs. L'étude du gymnarque et de ses congénères a déjà fait faire un grand pas dans la connaissance du système nerveux en général, humain y compris. Si les mystères de la réception de l'information par le cerveau et des ordres qu'il donne aux muscles ne devaient à ces étranges poissons.

Evelyn Simonnet.



Le gymnarque du Nil est capable de faire fonctionner une horloge, grâce à ses décharges électriques.



This exciting motor sporting event will take place today and Friday, spectators are welcome to come and watch, the best views of the cars can be seen from the following locations:

Thursday, 14th September at 4.00 p.m. from the side of the Queen Alia Airport highway between the Naur bridge and the underpass in the Amman direction. The rally route is next to the highway. The competing cars will pass twice in numerical order at one minute intervals.

Friday, 15th September, start from the Marriott Hotel at 8.30 a.m. The first high speed section is at the rear of the Amman National Park starting at 9.00 a.m. The best location to see the cars in action is from the side of the airport highway near the Alia Gateway Hotel at the bridge over the wadi and the railway line. Competing cars will pass through the under-bridge five times commencing at 9.26, 10.53, 12.28, 13.57, 15.30 hrs.

The cars will arrive at the Alia Gateway Hotel at approximately 11.10 and 14.15 for repairs and regrouping.

The finish of the event will be at the Marriott Hotel at exactly 6.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to watch this rally from virtually any location but please keep well back from the sides of the tracks as the cars will be travelling at high speed.

Mots Croisés

par Florence Monod

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: artisan de la musique. 2: trouvas la mort; à fait du tort. 3: unique. 4: forment le squelette; cinés; 5: dans la gamme; voie de communication. 6: épier; enlever. 7: Institut National de l'Audiotel; tachera. 8: sot; peu mieux sauter. 9: saison. 10: primordiaux.

Verticalement.

A: irréalisable. B: pronom personnel; animal. C: certain; sans relief. D: marque l'excès; forme d'être. E: bruits indistincts; préposition. F: abiment. G: négation; bravo espagnol. H: attache, quand il n'embarque pas. I: en tenue d'Adam; précipitera. J: ouvriers.

(Solution en bas de page)

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

The Grape of wrath, de John Ford, avec Henry Fonda, Jane Darwell, John Carradine et Charley Grapevin. Après avoir purgé une peine de prison pour meurtre, Tom Joad retrouve sa famille, accusée à la famine par une terrible sécheresse. Sans autre solution que d'abandonner leur terre, les Joad décident d'émigrer vers la Californie avec l'espoir d'y commencer une nouvelle vie...

Centre culturel français, jeudi 18 septembre à 19h00 (en français).

Poussière d'ange, d'Edouard Niermans, avec Bernard Giraudeau et Fabienne Bastien (1987). Série noire (suite). En plus de ses problèmes professionnels, l'inspecteur Blount patage dans sa vie privée. En pleine dérive, il fait la connaissance de Violetta...

Centre culturel français, jeudi 18 septembre à 20h00 (en français).

Ciné-club. Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00 et 21h00. Jeudi 14: Tell them, Willy Boy is here: The suicide of Maria Braun; Lebanon, honey land (Libanais); Amadeus. Vendredi 15: Les 55 jours de Pékin; The Hurricane; Bank shot; Under fire. Taming of the shrew. Samedi 16: Major Dundee; Night boat; They kill horses, don't they; Salvador; Starman.

Dimanche 17: Caravans; 48 hours; The heritage; War zone; Near dark.

Lundi 18: Lost command; Indiana Jones;

Docteur Justice; Death race 2000; Night fugitive. Mardi 19: Out of Africa; Three Dam road; Alien; The chain; Fatal attraction. Mercredi 20: Missing; Tonareri; Les trois jours du Condor; World, according to Garp. Films en version originale. Tél: 683902. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jémoussa puis première à gauche, carrefour 300m.

CONFERENCE

Les Nabatéens en Jordanie centrale, autour des fouilles de Tannour et de Dharhi. Conférence animée par François Villeneuve, maître de conférence à l'ENS et ancien secrétaire de l'Institut français d'archéologie du Proche-Orient à Amman, de 1983 à 1987.

Centre culturel français, mercredi 20 septembre à 18h00 (en français).

TELEVISION

Mademoiselle Julie, adaptée de l'oeuvre d'August Strindberg par Boris Vian, réalisée par Yves-André Hubert, avec Fanny Ardant, Niels Arestrup et Brigitte Catillon. Jeune aristocrate, mademoiselle Julie invite son valet à danser (en l'absence de père) et s'offre à lui, mi-impérieuse, mi-conquise. S'engage ensuite un long rapport de force entre Julie et le domestique...

JTV, vendredi 15 septembre à 17h30.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.

1: instrument. 2: mourus; mui. 3: purement. 4: os; osélers; 5: ut; ruc. 6: salet; oter. 7: INA; salira. 8: bête; élan. 9: été. 10: essentiels.

Verticalement.

A: impossible. B: nous; âne. C: sûr; plates. D: très; été; rumeurs; en. F: usent. G: ni; olé H: entortille. I: nu; ruera. J: tissanda.

Aiming bluntest warning at U.S.

IMF warns anew on debt

WASHINGTON (R) — World economic growth has proved to be surprisingly strong, but the burden of debt is still crushing many poor countries, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its annual report.

The 151-nation leading agency welcomed the continuation of healthy growth in output and investment in the industrial world and said developing nations as a group enjoyed one of their highest growth rates in a decade in 1988.

But the IMF, which oversees the world economy, warned that the current prosperity is threatened on a number of fronts and said governments must coordinate their policies better.

The report was originally scheduled to be released Wednesday. How to sustain economic growth and ease the burden of Third World debt will be major topics when thousands of officials and bankers gather here next week for the annual meetings of

the IMF and its sister agency, the World Bank.

As in the past, the fund aimed its bluntest warning at the United States, whose massive trade deficit remains a major source of vulnerability in the agency's view.

Repeating advice that has become conventional wisdom, the fund said the best way to reduce the trade deficit was to close the government's budget gap, which would allow resources to be channelled into exports without adding to inflation or crowding out investment.

A further drop in the dollar would help to narrow the trade gap by making U.S. exports cheaper overseas. But because American factories are already working flat out, such a move

now would merely fuel inflation, the IMF believes.

"While external adjustment may include further changes in real exchange rates over time, it is the board's view that such changes need to be accompanied by the implementation of appropriate fiscal and structural policies," the report said.

As well as the need for "urgent and forceful" action to reduce the budget deficit, the IMF said measures might also be needed to end the U.S. tax code's bias against private saving.

The IMF had kinder words for Japan than it had for the United States. It commended the authorities' handling of the budget and said the scope for unilateral financial action by Tokyo to reduce its external surplus was limited.

West Germany, the IMF said, must act more boldly to free its goods and labour markets. "Progress in relaxing structural rigidities has been limited... ac-

tion on deregulation has been slow and disincentives in some critical sectors continue to hamper economic activity," the IMF complained.

The strong growth in the Third World was mainly due to a buoyant export performance by thriving Asian economies, the IMF said.

In many other countries, the outlook is still bleak. "The financial position of many of the debt-problem countries remains extremely vulnerable," the report said.

Foreign debt owed by developing countries fell slightly in 1988 to \$1,197 billion from \$1,200 billion in 1987, and the size of the debt in relation to exports — a useful gauge of the severity of the debt burden — also shrank.

Further improvements are likely this year, but the IMF warned: "The debt burden nonetheless remains particularly onerous for the heavily indebted middle-income countries and low-income sub-Saharan African nations."

India opens its show window in Marj Al Hamam today

By Ghadeer Taber
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An exclusive Indian trade exhibition opens today, Thursday, at the Amman International Fair Centre at Marj Al Hamam with the aim of familiarising Jordanians with Indian products and technology with a view to increasing Indo-Jordanian trade and launch joint industrial ventures.

The seven-day exhibition brings together about 50 Indian manufacturers and exporters, offering products and technology ranging from fruit pulp and jewelry to tractors and tyre retreading machinery.

According to Indian officials, the main objectives of the exhibition, scheduled to be opened by Finance Minister Basil Jarrah, are three-fold: to project India's industrial and technological capa-

bilities; to identify specific trade opportunities; and to explore possibilities of technical collaboration in the form of joint ventures.

"The exhibition will give Jordanians a good overview of modern industrial India," V.D.N. Rao, general manager of the Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI) and director of the exhibition, said at a press conference Wednesday.

The Indian ambassador to Jordan, Gajendra Singh, stressed that the close political relationship between India and Jordan had not been reflected in economic relations. "Jordan and India are very close politically, but they have not developed their economic relations to the same positive extent," the ambassador said at the press conference.

The exhibition is of special significance to India because of



Indian Ambassador Gajendra Singh (right) and Indian Trade Exhibition Director V.D.N. Rao attend a press conference Wednesday (photo by Nayef Tarawneh)

the yawning balance of trade in favour of Jordan. The trade deficit between the two was \$116 million in favour of Jordan in 1988, and it is expected to grow even more this year since India plans to buy Jordanian phosphates and related products worth \$130 million to \$170 million.

Amman and New Delhi have reached several agreements to address the imbalance; and the Amman exhibition is seen as one of the mechanisms to implement these accords through informing the Jordanian private sector of what India can offer in terms of technology as well as finished products.

On the sidelines of the exhibition discussions will be held between Jordanian and Indian businessmen, officials and tech-

nical experts. A seminar will be held Thursday on "Jordan-India Trade and Economic Cooperation" to highlight to Jordanian businessmen and industrialists the potential projects and products which could be of use in the Kingdom. A technical symposium on telecommunication technology is scheduled to be held on Sept. 16. Both events will be held at the exhibition site.

India is hoping to secure a railway contract from Jordan and to launch a joint venture "maintenance facility" for telecommunications equipment. No specific figures are available on the proposed projects.

The exhibition is open to business visitors between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and to the general public from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Baghdad presses BNL

LONDON (R) — Iraq has told Italy's Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro (BNL), at the centre of a scandal over its Iraq exposure, that it may pay out all outstanding credits promised to Baghdad, the Financial Times newspaper reported.

In an interview in the newspaper's Wednesday edition, Iraqi Finance Minister Hikmat Omar Mukheirif would not put a figure on the outstanding credit but said the money should be paid "where we need it and when we need it."

He added: "There is still a certain amount of money not yet used. We want it to be completed... we already have a contract and we are up to our commitments."

The president and director-general of the state-owned BNL resigned last week after the bank disclosed that its branch in Atlanta, Georgia, had extended \$1.72 billion of unauthorised export credits to Iraq, with a further \$920 million of uncompleted financing in the pipeline.

Mukheirif suggested in the interview that the credits constituted a normal business transaction in which Iraq was prepared to honour its side of the bargain if BNL did the same.

"We are according to schedule in payment," he said. "We hope there are no problems." He gave no indication what Baghdad intended to do if BNL, Italy's largest commercial bank, did not pay out the remaining credit.

Press reports in London and Italy have suggested that part of the credits were used to finance the purchase of military equipment.

The Financial Times said Mukheirif sidestepped this issue, saying most of it was being used for agricultural or civilian projects such as power stations.

In a separate front-page story, the Financial Times quoted British government officials as saying Iraq had established an extensive network throughout Europe to acquire militarily useful equipment and skills.

It said the network is believed to cover countries such as Spain, France, Britain, West Germany and Italy.

The newspaper quoted the officials as saying the believed that more than 20 companies sold "dual use" equipment to Iraq, apparently for civilian use but with military applications, part of which it said was procured with BNL financing.

Global warming may hit Asia hardest

TOKYO (AP) — The world's poorest countries are likely to be hit particularly hard by rising global temperatures, which may destroy traditional crops, breed tropical diseases and flood coastal areas, environmental experts said Tuesday.

Specialists at a three-day conference on the world's environment, sponsored by the Japanese government, said low-lying countries like Bangladesh could lose up to 20 per cent of their land area in the next century because of rising ocean levels caused by melting polar ice. Thousands of Pacific islands could completely disappear, they said.

Scientists have predicted the earth will warm gradually over coming decades because of a build-up of man-made gases in the atmosphere that prevent heat from escaping, called the "greenhouse effect."

Dennis Tirpak, director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Global Climate Change Division, said temperatures are likely to increase by 1.5-4.5 degrees C (3-8 F), and ocean levels to rise by 0.5-2.0 metres (1.5-6.5

feet) if current emissions of "greenhouse" gases continue through the next century.

The gases, primarily carbon dioxide, methane and chlorofluorocarbons, are created by the burning of fossil fuels and industrial and agricultural processes.

"The limited financial resources of developing countries in Asia and the greater dependency of many of these countries on natural resource production make them especially vulnerable to the impacts of global warming," Tirpak said.

In addition, the environment in many developing countries may be particularly sensitive to climatic changes because of previous damage from rapid population growth and deforestation, he said.

If current trends continue, global warming will be "more extreme than anything which has occurred during the period of written history," warned Irving Mintzer of the University of Maryland's Centre for Global Change.

"The stresses which would result from such a rapid climate

change threaten to undermine the stability of modern civilisation," he said.

Tirpak and rising temperatures could endanger food production and economic growth in developing Asian nations, where agriculture contributes up to 80 per cent of income and employment.

The sensitivity of rice, Asia's staple food, to high temperatures, and widespread farming of marginal lands make the region particularly vulnerable to soaring temperatures, he said.

Rising temperatures also could worsen droughts in India and other nations and cover portions of India's western coast, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia and Maldives with sea water, officials said.

"The homes and lives of millions of people living in the deltas of the Ganges, the Nile, the Mekong, the Yangtze and the Mississippi could be at risk," Mintzer said.

Health conditions also may worsen because of an expansion of tropical diseases, increases in population density and worsening air quality, Tirpak said.

Asia currently accounts for about 25 per cent of world emissions of the gases responsible for global warming, he said.

"Asia's high vulnerability to climate change and growing contribution to global emissions of greenhouse gases place great urgency on the need for expedient and effective responses," Tirpak said.

The 60 officials and specialists participating in the conference, part of a new Japanese environmental initiative, are expected to release a set of recommendations for combating global warming and protecting the environment in developing nations.

Likely to be included are calls for energy conservation, preservation of tropical forests and use of natural gas instead of more polluting coal or oil.

"The rate of future climate change will be determined by policy choices and investment decisions made during the next decade," Mintzer said. "The world's climate is going to change. The questions are when and by how much."

Israel pushes for free oil markets

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's energy minister, accelerating a deregulation campaign, will propose a law next month to remove all remaining controls on the petroleum market, his aides said Tuesday.

"As more companies enter the market there will be more competition, better service," said an aide to Energy Minister Moshe Shahal.

The proposed law would end government regulation of imports of oil and crude oil prices. Three government-supervised com-

panies now dominate the Israeli industry.

An analysis of the current system last week by U.S. consultant Kidder Peabody urged blanket reform — full market deregulation, the sale of all state-owned interests and even legislation to keep reform on track.

Shahal has so far deregulated 30 per cent of the 8.5 million tonne annual Israeli petroleum market, despite strong opposition from the companies that had monopolised it.

The reforms are part of a drive led by Finance Minister Shimon Peres to carve a market economy out of a socialist-oriented one that has grown stagnant, wasteful and bureaucratic.

The three oil companies, Paz, Delek and Sonol, netted \$100 million in profits last year before being forced to share a third of the market with four new companies.

Zeev Refua, director of the government corporation authority that supervises government-owned companies, told Reuters: "In my opinion the petrol companies make too much money. And the refineries have no incentive at this point to run more efficiently, because they are all run on a cost-plus basis."

Under the new law, all companies will be free to import their own petroleum and the government will put its majority stake in

a \$350 million refinery on the auction block.

Peres threw his weight behind full petroleum deregulation after a meeting with Kidder Peabody analysts last week. Their report said it would save Israel \$70 million to \$120 million.

Israel imports all its oil — half from Egypt and the rest from Norway, Mexico and the European spot market.

The government is also moving toward deregulation and privatisation in sectors such as health and transportation.

A parliamentary committee Monday approved the sale of state-owned Jerusalem Economic Corp. (JEC) to an American investment bank in the second major deal of Israel's privatisation drive.

The state's 82.4 per cent stake in JEC, which builds industrial sites, will be sold to the New York-based Bear Stearns Bank.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Libya to give oil to Sudan monthly

KHARTOUM (AP) — A cabinet minister said that Libya will provide Sudan with 100,000 tons of oil products monthly for an unspecified period, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported. Information Minister Ali Shummu did not say whether the oil supply will be a grant or a loan. He spoke after a cabinet meeting and said the Sudanese leader had told the ministers that Sudan and Libya had agreed to "reactivate their bilateral agreements." He did not elaborate. Shummu did not say for how long the Libyan oil supply to Sudan would continue.

British interest rates to remain high

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has said British interest rates would stay high until the government had beaten the "cancer" of inflation. "Until we have got inflation down, interest rates will have to be high. We have to look at the lesser of two evils and inflation would be the worse of those two evils," Thatcher said. "We have to tackle that problem and tackle it we will but until then interest rates will not come down." She said inflation "will grow like a cancer and we will be in real difficulties" unless the government acted to reduce it.

Lufthansa tests smoking

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lufthansa is beginning a broadly based experiment to test the feasibility of banning smoking altogether on airline flights. The tests — from Oct. 1 to March 31 — will be conducted on the Dusseldorf-Stuttgart and Nuremberg-Cologne routes.

On these flights, the no-smoking sign will not be extinguished; cabin crew will request passengers not to light up and also hand out questionnaires, giving them the opportunity to voice their views on whether smoking should be taboo on future Lufthansa domestic flights.

Back in April 1987, the ratio of smoker to non-smoker seats in all aircraft was drastically changed: From 50 to 50 to 70 to 30 in favour of the non-smokers. The change was prompted by customer wishes, since a poll had shown that non-smokers make up 70 per cent of our major target groups.

Since then, the number has risen further, so that 66 per cent of passengers are now prepared to accept non-smoker flights on short routes. That demand for smoke-free air in the aircraft cabin is growing, is also substantiated by a survey carried out by the business magazine "Capital". Half the respondents in the poll supported a general ban on smoking.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, September 13, 1989

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	91.1	92.0
U.S. dollar	609.0	615.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	414.2	418.3
Pound Sterling	944.7	954.1	Dutch guilder	272.2	274.9
Deutschemark	306.7	309.8	Italian lira (for 100)	91.2	92.1
Swiss franc	335.6	339.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	146.6	148.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.5515/25	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1850/60	Canadian dollar	
	1.9803/10	Deutschemark	
	2.2308/15	Dutch guilder	
	1.7075/85	Swiss franc	
	41.40/43	Belgian franc	
	6.6700/50	French franc	
	1418/1419	Italian lire	
	146.70/80	Japanese yen	
	6.6650/700	Swedish crown	
	7.2000/50	Norwegian crown	
	7.6825/75	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	358.75/359.25	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Reuters

SYDNEY — A slide in the future market pulled the all-ordinaries index down another 7.1 points to 1,734.2.

TOKYO — The approach of a long weekend and uncertainty about U.S. economic indicators due Friday dragged the Nikkei index 45.94 points lower to 34,286.94.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng index fell 18.01 points to 2,592.14, closing at the day's low. "Dismissal of the governor in China's southern province of Hainan has offered an additional excuse for selling ahead of the weekend," a broker said.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times industrial index gained 7.1 points to 1,420.52, a post-crash high. The broader market was mixed with 117 winners outnumbering 106 losers.

BOMBAY — Shares recovered to finish mixed on heavy buying by state-owned investment trusts after drifting lower in earlier trading.

FRANKFURT — West German shares closed lower in moderately active trading with prices depressed by continued declines on the domestic bond market. The dax index fell 16.24, or one per cent, to 1,609.66.

PARIS — French share prices ended firmer after a quiet session as trading focused on isolated stocks. The 50-share price indicator ended 0.23 per cent up.

LONDON — Share prices reversed early weakness and firmed in moderately active business. At 1509 GMT the FTSE index was up 3.5 points at 2,401.1.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks generally were higher over a narrow range, but blue chips gave up small early gains and headed lower. The Dow was off about one point at 2,706 after rising to 2,713 on light buying.

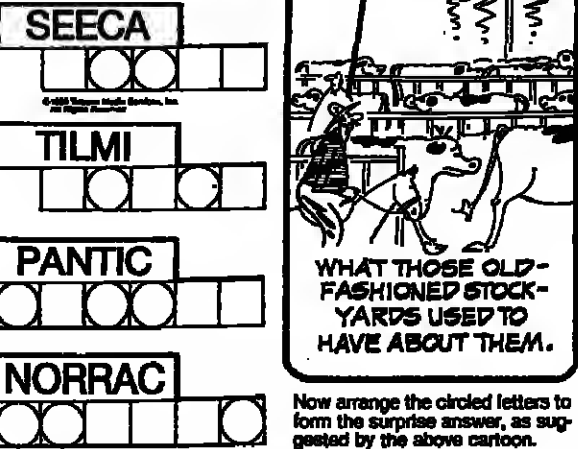
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"This rubber workout suit is great for exercise class! I can hide 20 candy bars in one of these babies!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surplus answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A DROOP PURSE NORMAL UNFAIR
Yesterday's Jumble: DROOP PURSE NORMAL UNFAIR
Answer: A theater owner never suffers in this — THE "LONG RUN".

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Steve McMahon and Ian Rush made it 3-0 at halftime but six more goals hit the back of the Palace net after the break.

North's three-spade rebid was a cue-bid in support of hearts. After two more cue-bids, South used the Grand Slam Force to find out

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is basically up to you.

100

**Consultate at telephone No.
attendance and to pick up your
in the 16th of September.**

Wednesday 20th of September at 8.00 p.m.
 Tickets available at the Royal Cultural Centre.

- 2- Ghaleb Haddadin
- 3- Ibrahim Hany Beharal
- 4- Najfa Wasit Beharal
- 5- Aly Feroed El Saad

Johnsin	George	58
owner	Salarnih	57
haireldin	Salah	57
haireldin	Jamal	58

.....

UAM Tel: 675571 **Cinema** **PLA**

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:00

S. Africans stage first legal rally since '86

CAPE TOWN (R) — Thousands of people singing freedom songs, dancing and waving posters saying "Stop killing our children" gathered in central Cape Town Wednesday for a protest unprecedented in recent years.

Disciplined crowds of anti-apartheid activists assembled for a march from Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Anglican cathedral after acting President F.W. de Klerk agreed in a dramatic climb-down Tuesday to tolerate the protest.

Police kept a low profile as the crowds gathered for the protest against police brutality. Normally all forms of outdoor demonstrations are banned under three-year-old emergency laws.

"It's unbelievable. I've never seen anything like this, said one white onlooker.

De Klerk, who is virtually certain to be confirmed as president Thursday, said after mediation by White House Reform Church leader John Heys: "The government has no objection to

peaceful and orderly protest." Tutu, World Reformed Church leader Allan Boesak, newly-elected white Mayor Gordon Oliver and John Drake, managing director of Shell Company, South Africa.

Tutu said in a letter urging Cape Town residents to join the march that it was against the police killing of 23 people during protests last week against parliamentary elections that excluded the four-to-one black majority.

"We are proud of the unprecedented outcry from ordinary Cape Towners at the response of the police to peaceful protest," he said.

The march was the first officially sanctioned by the government since emergency rule was imposed in June 1986 to crush a black uprising that claimed over 2,500 lives.

Police have used shotguns, whips, dogs and teargas to break up a series of gatherings in the past six weeks, mostly in and



Reverend Allan Boesak, comforts the mothers of two teen-agers slain Wednesday during national elections, from which blacks were excluded

around Cape Town, under the banner of a national apartheid defiance campaign.

Tutu has been arrested twice in the past month for attempting to march from his church and others held have included his wife, Leah, Boesak and prominent academics.

Activist sources say over 1,000 people have been arrested and

hundreds hurt in anti-election protests and police action against the defiance campaign that targeted white-only schools, hospitals, beaches and buses.

People alleged to have been killed by police last week included a baby, children aged three and five, a heavily pregnant 16-year-old and a 13-year-old paraplegic boy.

Cape Town police chief Flip Fompe vowed earlier this week to halt the march despite the proposed participation of Mayor Oliver and about half the city council, but de Klerk reversed his decision on Tuesday.

"The government has received definite assurances from the organisers of the march... with regard to the peaceful nature of the planned proceedings," he said.

Mazowiecki vows to change Poland

WARSAW (R) — Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki has pledged that the new Solidarity-dominated government will transform Poland, after ending 45 years of Communist rule.

Mazowiecki Tuesday outlined a programme of Western-style reforms to parliament, which swore in his 23-member coalition cabinet. It was the first formal break with Communist rule in Eastern Europe for more than 40 years.

Mazowiecki, 62, said Poles would find the reforms tough but there was no other way out of economic catastrophe. He had interrupted his speech after nearly fainting from exhaustion after months of hard bargaining over forming a government.

"We are faced with the historic task of a major economic and political about-turn amid the most extremely difficult circumstances," Mazowiecki, an adviser to the once-banned Solidarity trade union, told parliament.

"All this cannot be achieved without the prospect of bankruptcy and unemployment... but no other variant is possible," he said.

Parliament overwhelmingly approved Mazowiecki's programme and his cabinet of 11 Solidarity members, four Communists, one independent and seven members of two minority parties. The

vote was 402 for, none against and 13 abstentions.

Marian Orzechowski, the Communist Party's parliamentary leader, pledged the party's loyalty to the new government.

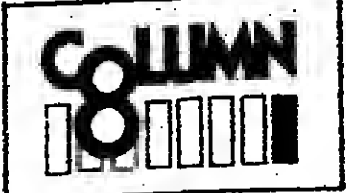
In the northern city of Gdansk, where the independent union was born in 1980, Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said in a statement: "For the first time in half a century Poland has a government that millions of Poles can accept as their own."

Mazowiecki's programme included sweeping privatisation, the creation of a stock exchange, the lifting of price controls and imposition of tight money policies that would close inefficient factories and lead to unemployment.

Mazowiecki vowed to cut inflation, which he said threatened to reach 4,000 per cent annually if nothing was done, and called for foreign aid to ease the \$39-billion foreign debt.

He also pledged to cut the budget deficit of three trillion zlotys (\$3 billion), reduce subsidies, curb investment projects and head towards a convertible currency.

Despite the general tone of austerity, Mazowiecki said the government would carry out emergency measures to improve housing and the health service in order to prevent what he called an exodus of young people abroad.



Pacino returns to public view

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Al Pacino is returning to public view after a long hiatus. The star of the two "Godfather" films and "Dog Day Afternoon" says in Vanity Fair magazine's October issue that he spent much of the past six years in dark glasses, false mustaches and disguised stage roles. Out of sight since filming "Scarface" in 1983, Pacino stars in the upcoming romantic thriller, "Sea of Love," with Ellen Barkin, and plays a surprisingly lighthearted cameo as the bad guy in Warren Beatty's "Dick Tracy." He also has agreed to play Michael Corleone for the third time after leaving for the third time director Francis Ford Coppola said he had come up with a new concept for the third "Godfather" film. Diane Keaton, with whom Pacino has a close relationship for several years, again will play Corleone's estranged wife. Pacino, 49, said he relished his time in disguise. "There's feeling that you experience when you put on glasses and a mustache and you blend in," he told the magazine. "I felt so free. I was excited."

Teddy bears travel with soldiers

EL PASO, (AP) — When the going gets rough on a rafting trip down the Rio Grande, 27 British soldiers will have something familiar to fall back on — their teddy bear. Paddington Bear, the well-travelled teddy bear found at Paddington station in England in the children's books of the 1960s and 1970s, was front and center in a blue duffle coat and red hat and boots when the soldiers from the 45th field regiment of the royal artillery began paddling the river Monday. "He's going to travel the full length of the Rio Grande, as far as it is navigable," said Lieutenant Simon Crane, the team leader from Oxford, England. The 1,770-kilometre trip is part of a yearly ritual of adventurous training for British army soldiers. The rafting trip, financed in part by private donations, is expected to raise about \$27,000 for Action Research for Crippled Children, an organization that discovered a serum for rubella and developed the sonogram, said helicopterman Sergeant Bob Lloyd. The charity uses Paddington bear, created by author Michael Bond, as its mascot.

Fly-by turns fly-behind

SEATTLE (AP) — What was supposed to have been a fly-by of the new Boeing 737-500 for its customers turned into a fly-behind. The new jet, flanked in tight formation by 737-300 and a 737-400, was scheduled Monday to fly in front of the guests waiting at the Museum of Flight at Boeing field. But the jets flew over the building and behind the spectators. "I'm not sure what happened," said Dick Schlem, a Boeing commercial airplanes spokesman. "I think the pilots of the planes believed they were to fly over the building and not over the runway." Some guests did catch a glimpse of the formation, although the sun was directly overhead at the time, Schlem said. "Some people saw most of the first plane, half of the second and none of the third," he said with a laugh. The guests included officials of major customers for the 737-500, including Southwest Airlines, Braniff, Euralair and Maersk. The 737-500, Boeing's smallest commercial jet, was first flown June 30 and is aimed at the same market as the 737-200, which first flew in 1967 and ended production in 1988. The 500-series planes, which sell for \$24 million, carry about the same number of passengers as the 200 series, but can save 20 per cent of the fuel.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN	MAX	Weather
AMSTERDAM	18	24	75 Cloudy
ATHENS	20	28	31 Clear
BAHRAIN	28	34	37 Clear
BANGKOK	25	34	33 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	10	19	65 Clear
Cairo	24	37	37 Clear
CHICAGO	11	22	72 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	11	12	57 Clear
FRANKFURT	14	14	57 Clear
GENEVA	10	20	77 Clear
HONG KONG	28	34	33 Clear
ISTANBUL	20	28	27 Clear
LONDON	18	21	20 Clear
LOS ANGELES	16	22	79 Clear
MADRID	13	25	77 Rain
MEXICO	28	34	45 Clear
MONTREAL	22	28	29 Clear
MOSCOW	13	20	68 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	25	37	37 Clear
NEW YORK	20	28	37 Cloudy
PARIS	18	25	77 Cloudy
ROME	18	24	75 Cloudy
SYDNEY	18	24	20 Rain
TOKYO	24	31	38 Clear
VIENNA	14	27	25 Clear

M - indicates missing information.

Bomb explodes as Sri Lankan talks begin

COLOMBO (AP) — A bomb exploded in a parked car in downtown Colombo Wednesday shortly before the start of a peace conference aimed at negotiating an end to ethnic violence that has killed more than 16,000 people.

No group claimed responsibility for the blast, which occurred in a lot near the central telegraph office about 45 minutes before the conference opened but caused little damage and no casualties.

Police blamed the People's Liberation Front, a militant Sinhalese group trying to over-

throw the country's Sinhalese-dominated government because of its attempts to negotiate peace with minority Tamil rebels.

Front members boycotted Wednesday's peace conference, called by President Ranasinghe Premadasa for all political parties to try to resolve six years of violence in this Indian ocean island nation, said a government spokesman, who asked not to be identified.

According to the spokesman, 69 delegates from 21 of the country's 27 recognised political parties attended the conference

under tight security.

Five of the parties have proposed the formation of a provisional government, fresh elections, scrapping of the presidency and a return to a British-style parliamentary system.

Premadasa has said he would consider proposals made by all parties to restore peace to the island, crippled by fear as the wave of killings by rebels, security forces and pro-government vigilante groups continues.

The fighting began in 1983 when Tamil guerrillas began their war for a separate homeland in

northern and eastern Sri Lanka. Tamils make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and claim they are denied jobs and education by the Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of the population and dominate the government and military.

Premadasa's predecessor, former President Jinnas Jayewardene, attempted to end the insurgency in July 1987 by signing a peace accord that offered the Tamils limited autonomy if they would put down their weapons. Jayewardene also invited peacekeeping forces from neigh-

bouring India to supervise the arms' surrender.

But the largest and most militant Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, rejected the accord and turned their guns on the Indian soldiers.

The Tamil insurgency has claimed more than 11,000 lives, including 1,000 Indian soldiers.

The accord also triggered a backlash by Sinhalese militants, who claimed that it offered too many concessions to the Tamils and compromised the country's sovereignty by bringing Indian troops to Sri Lanka.

Yeltsin urges Bush to save perestroika

WASHINGTON (R) — Boris Yeltsin, the maverick Soviet politician who has sharply criticised the pace of Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, has asked U.S. President George Bush for help in saving perestroika.

The request was made Tuesday at the White House during a hastily-arranged meeting that was a matter of concern for White House aides, who feared too warm a reception for Yeltsin could be construed as interference in Soviet domestic affairs.

Yeltsin met Bush for 15 minutes on the third day of his eight-day U.S. tour. He later met Secretary of State James Baker and congressional leaders.

After the meeting with Baker, Yeltsin said, "In my discussion with the president... today I made a list of 10 issues which could be discussed between us which would serve to rescue perestroika."

He did not answer questions on the substance of the 10 issues, but the State Department said Yeltsin told Baker the kinds of changes needed to help perestroika included acceptance of private property, movement towards a mixed economy and need for external investment in the Soviet Union.

The White House sought to play down the meeting between the president and Yeltsin, a political maverick who has said Gorbachev has six months to a year to make his reforms work.

"The president noted his very positive relationship with General Secretary Gorbachev and reiterated his support for perestroika," the White House said in a statement. "The president emphasised that the American people share his hope for the success of the reform movement in the Soviet Union."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Yeltsin was regarded as "an important spokesman for his point of view," but added: "We don't want to do anything to foster internal conflict that might be associated with his tour."

In White House parlance,



Boris Yeltsin

Bush's meeting with Yeltsin was a "drop-by" — that is, he dropped by while Yeltsin was meeting National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft.

Tempering the gloomy forecasts from Yeltsin, however, were comments from a leading Soviet economist who said perestroika was troubled but not doomed.

"We have a crisis in the economy, and if we still hesitate and if we do something for the worse, there could be trouble within a year," said Abel Aganbegyan, a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and a key economic adviser to Gorbachev.

"We could see difficulties and social unrest... massive strikes, for example... but Yeltsin's idea that nothing will be done is not true," said Aganbegyan, in Washington to promote his newly published book, "Inside Perestroika."

Asked what the Bush administration could do to support the Soviet Union's economic reform, Aganbegyan said progress in disarmament talks could help the Soviets reduce the crushing burden of military spending.

"We are planning to decrease our military expenditures over the next five years," he said. "But this depends on the progress of disarmament talks."

Yeltsin's U.S. tour resembles a whistle-stop political campaign. He scheduled news conferences and speeches in Chicago late Tuesday, in Philadelphia and Minneapolis Wednesday and Indianapolis Thursday. He is to leave the United States next Monday.

San Salvador, rebels set for peace talks

MEXICO CITY (R) — A Salvadoran government commission and left-wing rebel leaders gathered in Mexico City Wednesday to begin peace talks which Salvadorans hope will end a decade of civil war.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels said their guns would fall silent during the day as part of a unilateral ceasefire offered by the guerrillas.

The talks, expected to last two days, are the first since Alfredo Cristiani, of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) Party, became state president of the Central American nation June 1.

"Everyone has great expectations because it is the first meeting between ARENA and the

FMLN," guerrilla commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez told Reuters.

The five-member government commission, which arrived in Mexico City Tuesday, is headed by Justice Minister Oscar Santamaría and Presidency Minister Juan Martinez Varela.

The rebel delegation is headed by commanders Joaquin Villalobos, seen as the ideological and military leader of the FMLN, Shafik Handal.

The rebel and government delegations avoided journalists on their arrival in Mexico City and the site of the talks was not immediately made public.

The dialogue is the fourth since the outbreak of El Salvador's civil war in 1979 and the first since the rebels held an inconclusive meet-

ing with then-President Jose Napoleon Duarte in October 1987.

During the decade of civil war, an estimated 70,000 Salvadorans have been killed and one in 10 have fled their homes.

The United States has pumped \$4 billion in economic and military aid into the country, which has a population of about five million. But despite 10 years of fighting, neither the guerrillas nor the armed forces close to solving the conflict militarily.

Diplomats say Cristiani appears sincere in his willingness to discuss peace with the rebels. They add that any prolonged ceasefire would help him consolidate his market-oriented economic reforms, which the government hopes will take much of the force out of the rebel movement.

U.S. drugs war could cost \$50 billion over five years

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush's war on drugs could cost \$50 billion over the next five years, federal drug policy director William Bennett told the U.S. Congress Tuesday.

Responding to Democratic charges that Bush's plan will prove inadequate to reduce the U.S. drug habit and stem the flow of cocaine from Latin America, Bennett said \$7.86 billion sought by the president for 1990 was only the beginning and estimated the long-term price tag could add up to more than six times that figure over five years.

"Are we willing to spend the money needed? There are flaws

in this plan," Democratic Congressman Larry Smith of Florida said when Bennett testified before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

"I don't think it's unreasonable to think that we're talking about a \$50-billion programme over five years, give or take," Bennett said.

"That's a substantial investment," he added in giving the first firm long-range estimate of the cost. "Remember, the entire drug budget in 1986 was \$2 billion."

Bennett gave no hint that Bush had changed his opposition to increase taxes to pay for the war,

as some Democrats have suggested he must. The White House wants to finance the fight by selectively shifting funds from other federal programmes.

The administration Tuesday scored a plan by Senator Robert Byrd to add \$2.2 billion to Bush's \$7.86-billion request for 1990 by making an across-the-board cut of about one-half of one per cent in other federal programmes.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater suggested the move by the West Virginia Democrat would be vetoed by Bush. Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said "Meat-axe" budget cuts would hurt defence programmes.

Australian city declares 'toadal' war on giant pests

By Richard Hill
The Associated Press

SYDNEY — Poisonous toads that grow to the size of dinner plates are invading Brisbane, Australia's third largest city, but there are plans to make them croak.

Councillor Geg Stegman pledged Tuesday that the city of about one million people on the gold coast strip of the northeastern seaboard will be toad-free within five years.

The amphibians, known as cane toads, measure up to 30 centimetres across and weigh 2.75 kilograms.

Stegman told the AP that with the onset of the southern hemisphere summer, millions of the ugly toads are awaking from winter hibernation.

"Within two weeks, they'll

be everywhere," he said.

Eradication tactics include ringing the city suburbs with tape-recording of the male toad's rattling mating call to attract females. Then trappers will pounce, shove the toads into plastic bags and freeze them to death, Stegman said.

Householders also are being advised to sprinkle deterrents on toads found in backyards because it "does the job quickly."

Brisbane resident Anne Nakano complained that the space underneath her home, which is built on stilts, is crawling with toads.

"We stamp on them when we open the front door in the morning to pick up the milk," she said.

Stegman said cane toads, or "bufino marinus," are becoming Australia's public enemy

number one. He said the city council has decided against offering a bounty for every toad killed because "knowing the Australian entrepreneurial spirit, they'll start breeding them."

"They're in plague proportions," he said. "I'm not advocating that people stamp them to death or spear them pitchforks, but something has to be done."

A children's pastime in Brisbane is to use cane toads as footballs.

Cane toads have marched across northern Australia and south to the state of New South Wales since they were introduced from South America in 1935 to eradicate a beetle plague that was destroying Australia's sugar cane crops.

The toads were first shipped to the city of Cairns, 1,400

kilometres north of Brisbane. Since then they have also spread across the northern "top end" of Australia into the spectacular and unspoiled Kakadu National Park in the northern territory.

"They're now marching on Sydney, it's only a hop, skip and a jump from the (state) border," Stegman said.

"Having the tape-recording is a very easy way to get rid of them but the state does not have enough money to reach every household," Stegman said. "We are bringing out brochures and looking to private enterprise to produce more tapes."

The state of Queensland is currently holding a contest to find the biggest toad to be entered in the Guinness Book of World Records. The leading

candidate is Mary Lou, who measures 30 centimetres across, weighs three kilograms and eats 11 mice a day as well as a diet of eggs mixed with insects.

"She's strong and she's a very good chance for the world title," said owner, Geoff Smith.

The Queensland Museum said cane toads pose a major threat to Australia's unique fauna and wildlife.

A biologist said the toads, when cornered and frightened, squirt a liquid that asphyxiates fully grown dogs like German shepherds.

"They'll kill a dog in 30 seconds," the official said. "They devour everything in their path. They eat rodents, mice, frogs and even snakes — everything except humans."

MALE AND FEMALE TYPISTS To Type English

The Jordan Press Foundation is in need of typists in English with high efficiency to be trained on offset machines.

Call on the director of the printing press at the foundation during office hours as of today and until the end of the office hours Saturday Sept. 16, 1989.